

US Congress stunned by speaker's historic ouster



WASHINGTON - Lawmakers screamed and bickered in a raucous session Tuesday that eventually yielded to a stunned silence: for the first time in US history the House of Representatives had removed its own speaker.

Kevin McCarthy fell victim to a rebellion by a small far-right clutch in his Republican Party that has made life hell for him since he took up the speaker's gavel in January.

"The office of speaker of the House of the United States House of Representatives is hereby declared vacant," said Republican Representative Steve Womack of Arkansas, who presided over a crowded, tense session of the House of Representatives.

McCarthy, a carefully coiffed Californian, looked passive after the vote came down as Democrats declined to come to his rescue and let the small group of lawmakers loyal to Donald Trump eject the speaker in the stunning culmination of an intra-party dispute over spending and other issues.

For hours McCarthy had listened as lawmakers loyal to him tried to resolve the spat, save his job and let the chamber get back to urgent business like deciding on funding for the government and continued aid to Ukraine.

"He has toasted at our weddings. He has celebrated the birth of our children, mourned the loss of our loved ones," said an emotional McCarthy loyalist

Elise Stefanik.

But the forces arrayed against 58-year-old McCarthy were furious as they accused him of breaking promises repeatedly.

"The reason Kevin McCarthy went down today is because nobody trusts Kevin McCarthy," said Florida representative Matt Gaetz, the hardliner who introduced the motion to remove the speaker.

Democratic lawmakers from President Joe Biden's party watched in astonishment as the Republican factions fought each other on their way to making history with the unprecedented political punishment of McCarthy.

The image of one lawmaker, Jim McGovern, summed up the Democratic exasperation:

he sighed loudly, holding his head in his hands.

In the end, all 200-plus Democrats in the chamber joined with the hardline Republicans to oust McCarthy.

The hardliners had tried doggedly to block McCarthy from getting the job back in January, forcing him to go through 15 rounds of votes until he finally made enough concessions to appease them and win approval.

Now there is an acting speaker of the House, Representative Patrick McHenry, until a new one is elected.

McHenry slammed the gavel down very hard as he declared the house in recess after Tuesday's momentous events.

- Nampa/AFP

Brought it... Former US speaker of the HoUse Kevin McCarthy, Republican of California. McCarthy was axed on 3 October 2023 in a brutal, historic rebellion by far-right Republicans accusing him of a string of broken promises. Photo: Nampa/AFP

Canada elects first indigenous provincial leader

MONTREAL - Canada's province of Manitoba elected First Nations politician Wab Kinew as its leader on Tuesday, making him the first indigenous person voted in to head

a provincial government.

Kinew, of the New Democratic Party, will take power with a majority government.

"This is a great victory for all of us in Manitoba," Kinew

told a crowd of cheering supporters in provincial capital Winnipeg.

"I know a lot of people in the big cities they looked down on us here in Manitoba. But look

what little old Manitoba did tonight. Manitoba did something more progressive than any of those big cities ever did."

Kinew, originally from the Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation in northern Ontario, is a former journalist and author.

"He's a great communicator and knows how to navigate the media universe," University of Winnipeg professor Felix Mathieu told AFP, adding that Kinew had "stood out for his political ease" in a televised debate, where he had "unquestionably" emerged victorious.

Canada recognizes three groups of indigenous peoples: First Nations, Inuit and Metis.

About 18% of Manitoba's population is Indigenous, and the province was led by a Metis premier in the late 1800s.

The country's First Nations people gained the right to vote in federal elections in 1960.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs hailed Kinew's win as "a powerful affirmation of increased inclusivity and First Nations' participation and representation within Manitoba's political landscape."

In recent years, Canada's treatment of its Indigenous peoples has come under scrutiny. The discovery of the graves of Indigenous children in 2021 prompted rebukes of the Catholic Church and the government.

Between the late 19th century and the mid-1990s about 150 000 aboriginal children were forced into 139 residential schools across the country, where they were cut off from their families, language and culture. - Nampa/AFP



Great victory... Indigenous Canadians stands in front of Roddick Gates, a part of McGill University, during a Canadian "Truth and Reconciliation" rally on 30 September 2023. Photo: Nampa/AFP

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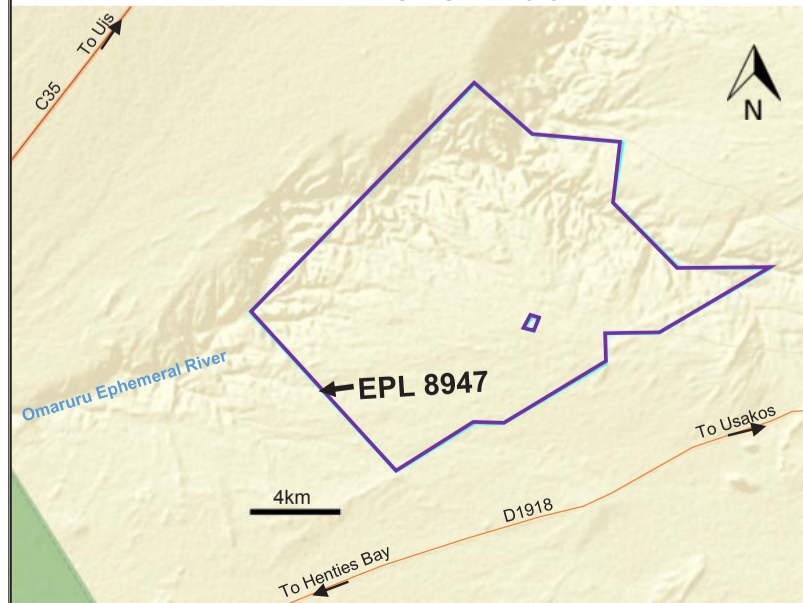
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Taiwan communist party head indicted

TAIPEI - The head of a communist party in Taiwan has been indicted for allegedly acting as a proxy for Beijing and attempting to bribe voters in elections, Taiwanese prosecutors said Wednesday.

Lin Te-wang, chairman of the Taiwan People's Communist Party, was charged with violating the Anti-infiltration Act on Wednesday alongside two other members, according to the Taipei District Prosecutors' Office.

The indictment came as Taiwan is heading into presidential and parliamentary elections in January amid deteriorating ties with China, which claims the self-ruled island as its own territory.

Various Taiwanese government officials have warned that Beijing, which loathes President Tsai Ing-wen's administration, could try to influence the island's election results.

Lin was indicted for allegedly receiving Chinese funding to run for city councillor in the city of Tainan in 2018.

He had also allegedly financed a party member to run in another city council election in 2022, even though he was aware that Beijing "aims to infiltrate Taiwan's elections", prosecutors said.

"Lin is obviously a proxy for a hostile external force and is also

a source of infiltration defined by the Anti-infiltration Act," they said in a statement.

Prosecutors said he had met with Chinese officials, including those from China's Taiwan Affairs Office -- which handles cross-strait relations -- and invited some of them to visit the island multiple times.

He had also allegedly accepted paid trips to China, they said.

In the 2022 local elections, Lin attempted to bribe voters with Covid test kits he received from China but was stopped before distributing them, prosecutors said, adding that this move also violated a law regulating medical devices.

Lin's small party, founded in 2017, maintains that Taiwan is a part of China.

Last year, a Taiwanese couple became the first to be charged under the anti-infiltration law for allegedly bribing voters with Chinese Covid tests ahead of local elections.

The law, pushed by President Tsai's party in 2019, bans "hostile" foreign forces from campaigning, lobbying, making political donations or spreading disinformation related to elections.

- Nampa / AFP

Guinea-Bissau capital without power over unpaid bill to Turkey's Karpowership

GLORIA ARADI & YUSUF AKÍNPÈLÚ

A Turkish firm has cut power supplies to Guinea-Bissau's capital over an unpaid bill of at least \$15m (£12m), plunging the city into darkness.

It has severely disrupted daily life, with hospitals affected and radio stations off-air.

Economy Minister Suleimane Seidi acknowledged the arrears, saying most of the bill would be paid in 15 days. Karpowership is one of the world's biggest floating power plant operators, supplying several African states.

But it has taken a tough line over non-payment. Last month, it cut power to Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, over an unpaid bill of \$40m.

The Turkish company has also signed a deal to supply power to South Africa, saying it will cover more than 5% of the country's total electricity needs.

South Africa has been hit by a wave of power cuts with people going without electricity for up to 10 hours a day.



Power was cut in Bissau, a city with a population of more than 400,000, in the early hours of Tuesday and has not been restored, a resident told the BBC. Some public hospitals are now using generators to carry out surgery, local journalist Assana Sambu told the BBC. But they don't have running water because there is not enough electricity, and hospital directors have appealed for power in order to cook food for

their patients.

Another journalist, Alberto Dabo, said he was drinking water from a well because water supplies had been cut amid the sweltering heat which reaches 40C.

"Our houses are very hot. Most families stay outside till 4am before entering their houses to spend the rest of the night. You can't stay indoors because of the heat."

State-run Rádio Nacional is among media outlets that have stopped broadcasting, while the private radio station where Sambu works is only partially operating, he added.

Karpowership says it has been supplying 100% of Guinea-Bissau's electricity since signing a five-year agreement with the state-owned electricity and water utility company in 2019.

The country is one of the poorest in the world and has been beset by instability since independence.

"Unfortunately, following a protracted period of non-payment, our [floating power plant] is now unable to continue operating," a Karpowership spokesperson was quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying.

"We are working around the clock with officials to resolve this issue and we aim to have generation back online as soon as possible," the spokesperson added.

Energy Minister Isuf Baldé said \$6m of the \$15m bill had been paid.

"In a small and poor country like

Guinea-Bissau, carrying out a transfer operation of this level, \$10m, takes time," he said.

He added that the contract with Karpowership needed to be renegotiated because costs had almost doubled since it began, to a level Guinea-Bissau could no longer afford.

The company also supplies electricity to six other African countries - Ghana, The Gambia, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The company prides itself as "the owner, operator and builder of the world's only Powership (floating power plant)".

Its involvement in the electricity sector is the latest example of Tukey's growing influence in Africa.

Although access to electricity has increased in sub-Saharan Africa in recent years, it still remains low, with more than 50% of the region's population having no grid connection, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad).

-BBC NEWS

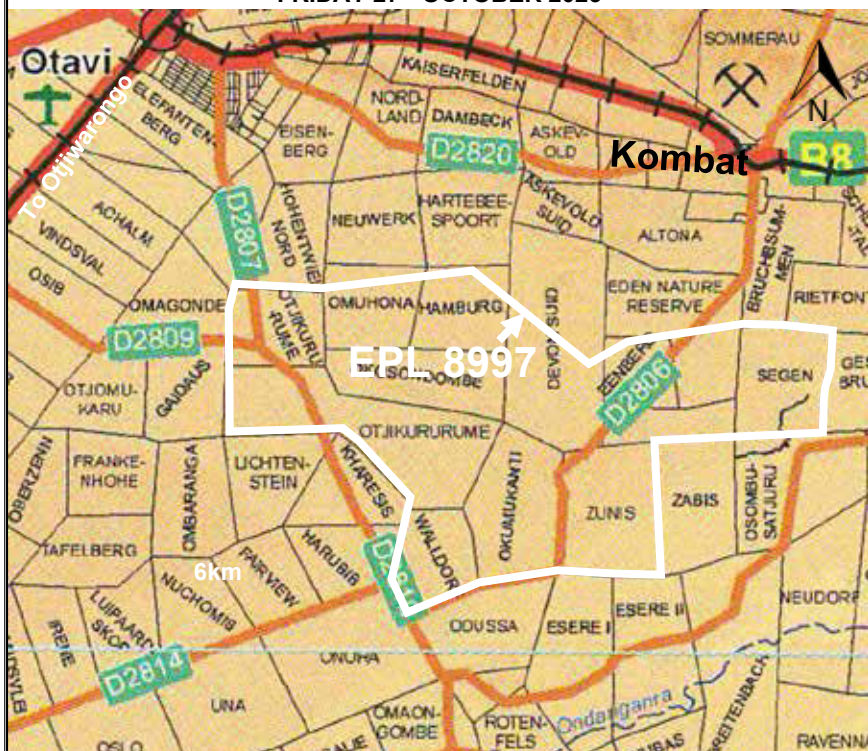
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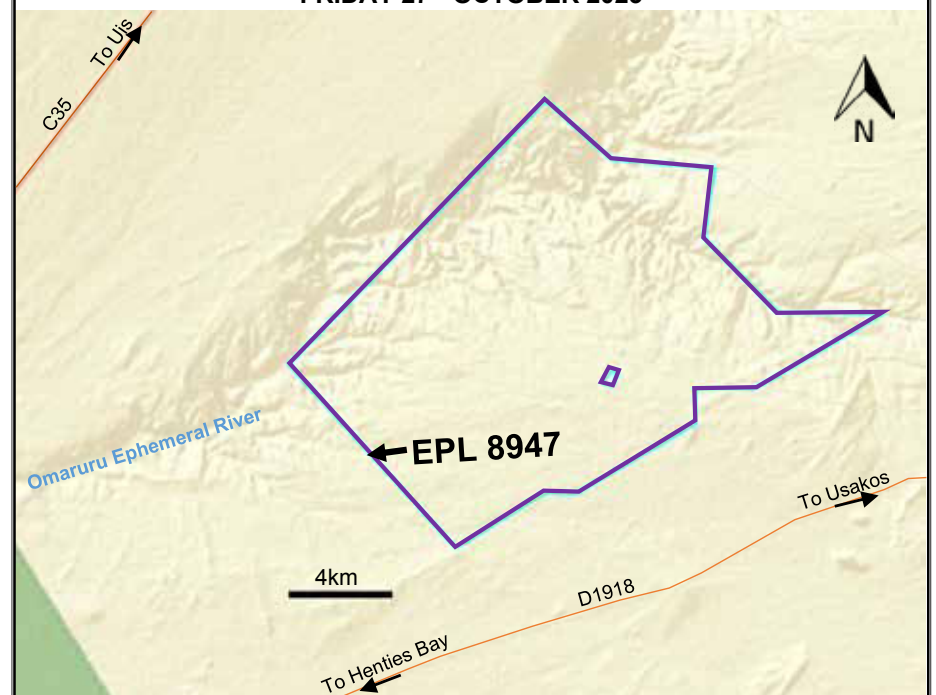
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New platform to power Africa's energy transition

In its 30th year of existence, leading African upstream oil-and-gas event Africa Oil Week (AOW) has launched a bold new brand and mission, with a broader energy focus in line with the global energy transition and Africa's evolving role.

The event is evolving into a new platform, to be known as AOW: Investing in African Energy. It will provide a single, inclusive forum for investing in African energy, addressing the continent's immediate energy needs, while driving dialogue to accelerate the clean-energy transition.

"This is the perfect time to launch a bold new brand and mission," says Yemi Ibidunni, Event Director of AOW. "The continent's diverse energy landscape, from its hydrocarbon reserves to its renewables potential, makes Africa a critical player in shaping a sustainable energy future. The platform is evolving to reflect that."

The new evolution of the event will bring together two existing events: the long-established Africa Oil Week, and the two-year-old Green Energy Africa Summit, previously run as parallel events from the same venue in Cape Town.



The continent's diverse energy landscape, from its hydrocarbon reserves to its renewables potential, makes Africa a critical player in shaping a sustainable energy future.

The new format will have a broader focus, to reflect the global move to a diversified energy mix, while ensuring Africa has the resources to power the next phase of its development.

The Energy Investment Village for clean-tech start-ups will sit at the heart of the exhibition, and the event will also feature an advanced government meetings programme and new networking lounges where delegates can connect. AOW 2024 is scheduled to run over five days from October 7–11, 2024, with a comprehensive onsite and evening networking programme.



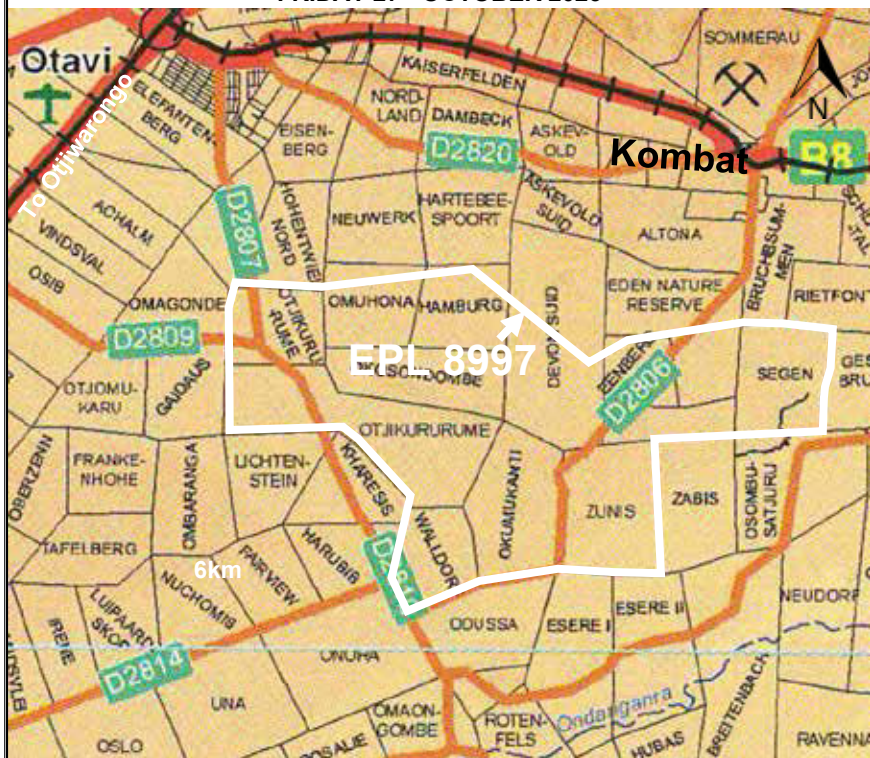
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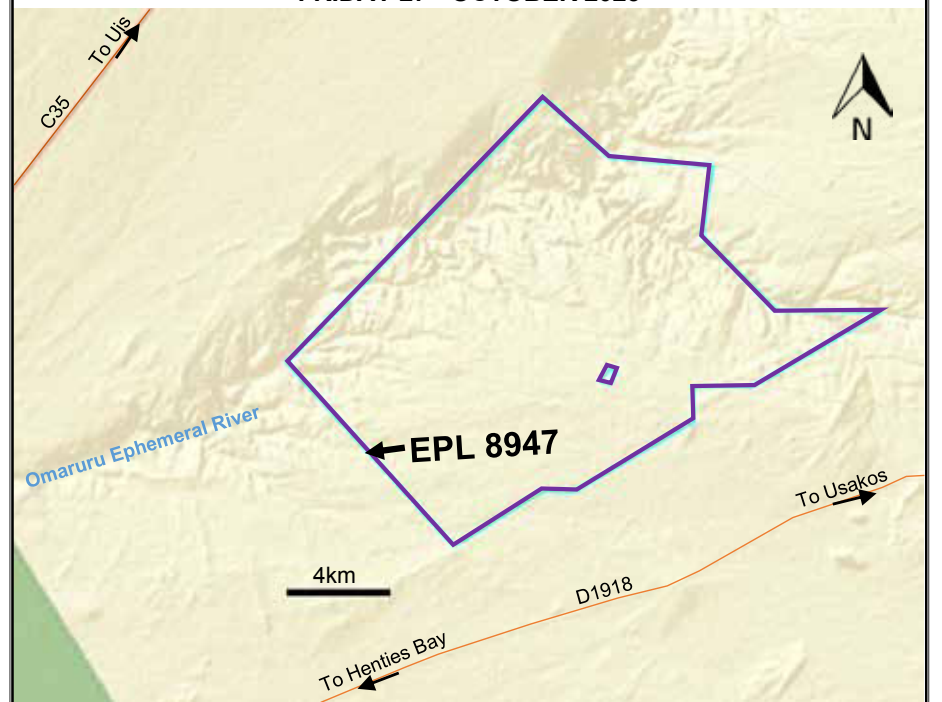
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North Korea sending Russia military equipment, US claims

MATT MURPHY

US officials have accused North Korea of supplying vast amounts of military hardware to Russia for use in Ukraine.

Pyongyang has supplied up to 1,000 containers of “equipment and munitions” in “recent weeks”, National Security Council Spokesperson John Kirby said.

Officials also released photos of what they said were 300 containers assembled for transport in Najin, North Korea.

Last month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited Russia to discuss potential military cooperation. Moscow’s military is believed to be burning through huge amounts of artillery shells and missiles in its ongoing invasion of Ukraine, and has been seeking to replenish its supplies from some of its isolated allies.

Some analysts believe that Mr Kim’s regime could be sitting on huge stores of arms, but could be reluctant to hand over too much given its relative lack of resources.

US intelligence agencies tracked the deliveries, which officials said took place between 7 September and 1



October. Speaking at a news conference on Friday, Mr Kirby said the equipment was exported via sea and rail to a supply depot in southwestern Russia, near Tikhoretsk, about 180 miles (290km) from the Ukrainian border. Mr Kirby did not specify the nature of the munitions he says were supplied by Mr Kim’s regime, but the US has previ-

ously accused Moscow of purchasing rockets and artillery shells from Pyongyang. Since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, US officials have consistently voiced concerns that North Korea has supplied munitions to Russia. “We condemn [North Korea] for providing Russia with this military

equipment, which will be used to attack Ukrainian cities, kill Ukrainian civilians and further Russia’s illegitimate war,” Mr Kirby told reporters. He said the deliveries by North Korea violate UN Security Council resolutions “which is why we will continue to aggressively raise these arms deals at the UN alongside with our allies and partners”.

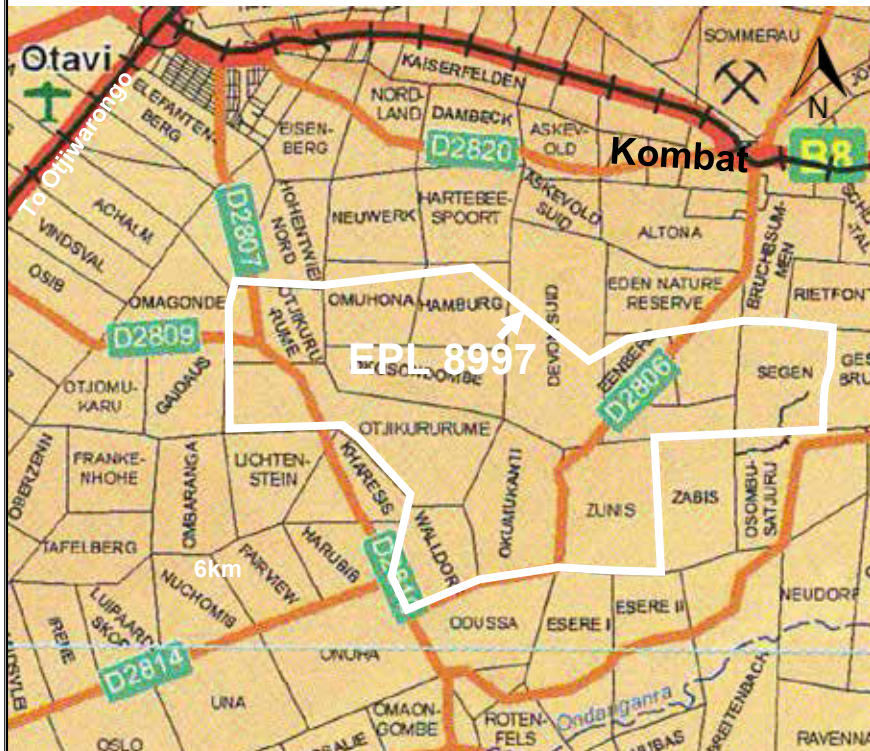
In July, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu visited the country with a military delegation and met with Mr Kim, who displayed a number of weapons systems - including the Hwasong intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). And in September, Mr Kim met with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Vostochny space centre in Russia’s far east. Observers say that North Korean weapons would only give a short-term boost to Russia’s war effort. They point to how Moscow, with hugely depleted ammunition, is relying on older, more unreliable artillery shell stocks. And speaking recently at a ceremony to mark his retirement as chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Mark Milley said he was “sceptical” that any such deliveries would play a decisive role in the conflict. But it comes as the US has been forced to pause plans to send an additional \$6bn in military aid to Kyiv, amid an ongoing budget row in the House of Representatives. President Biden said earlier this week that the temporary agreement between House Democrats and Republicans may force him to find alternative ways to fund Ukraine’s war effort. -BBC NEWS

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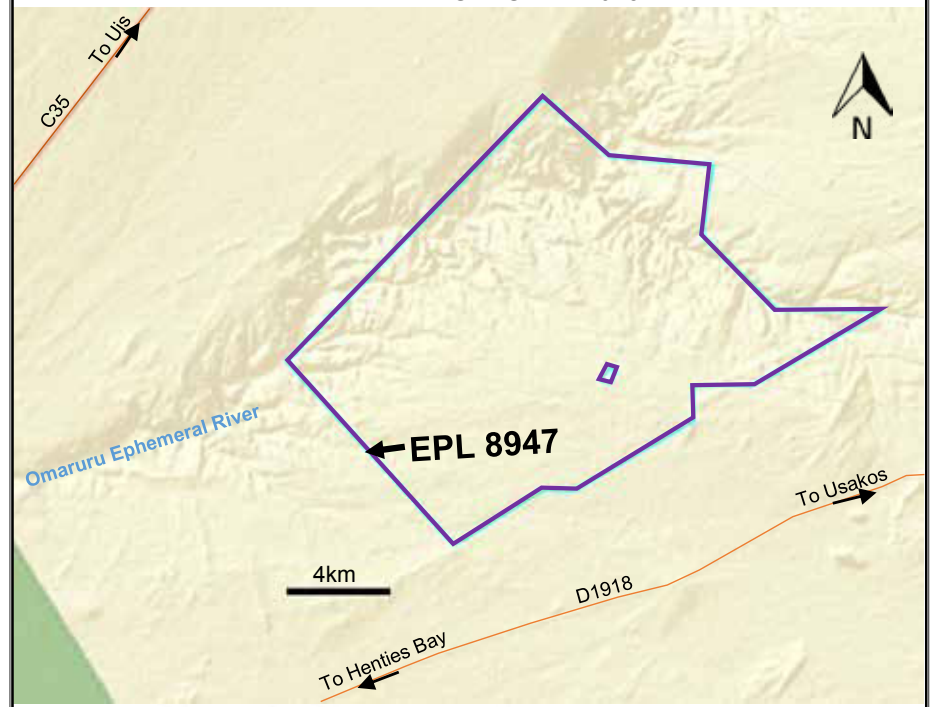
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Dr Sindila Mwiya (EAP/Technical Permitting Advisor/Consultant)
 CONSULTATION DURATION AND DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IS:
FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 2023



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Israeli strikes on Gaza intensify as humanitarian crisis deepens

Israeli forces kept up their bombardment of Gaza on Monday after diplomatic efforts to arrange a ceasefire to allow foreign passport holders to leave and aid to be brought into the besieged Palestinian enclave failed.

Residents of Hamas-ruled Gaza said overnight air strikes were the heaviest yet as the conflict entered its 10th day with an Israeli ground offensive believed to be imminent.

Bombing carried on through the day, they said, and many buildings were flattened, trapping yet more people under the rubble. Israeli officials issued multiple warnings of Hamas rocket fire into Israel.

Diplomatic efforts have been under way to get aid into the enclave, which has endured unrelenting Israeli bombing since the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas that killed 1 300 people, the bloodiest single day in the state's 75-year history.

But Israel's chief military spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said there was no Gaza ceasefire and that Israel was continuing its operations. "There are no such efforts under way at this time. If anything changes, we will inform the public. We are continuing

our fight against Hamas, this murderous organisation that carried this (the assaults) out."

Israel has imposed a full blockade and is preparing a ground invasion to enter Gaza and destroy Hamas, which has continued to fire rockets at Israel since its brief cross-border assault. On Monday, rocket-warning sirens sounded in several towns in southern Israel, the Israeli military said.

Israeli troops and tanks are already massed on the border. Authorities in Gaza said at least 2 750 people had so far been killed by the Israeli strikes, a quarter of them children and nearly 10 000 wounded. A further 1 000 people were missing and believed to be under rubble.

With food, fuel and water running short, hundreds of tons of aid from several countries have been held up in Egypt pending a deal for its safe delivery to Gaza and the evacuation of some foreign passport holders through the Rafah border crossing.

Earlier on Monday, Egyptian security sources had told Reuters that an agreement had been reached to open the crossing to allow aid into the enclave. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a state-



Smoke billows following Israeli strikes in Gaza City, 11 October 2023.-Image Credits :Reuters

ment, "There is currently no truce and humanitarian aid in Gaza in exchange for getting foreigners out." Hamas official Izzat El Reshiq told Reuters there was "no truth" to the

reports about the crossing opening or a temporary ceasefire. Egypt has said the crossing was rendered inoperable due to Israeli bombardments on the Palestinian side.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on Monday the Israeli government had yet to take a stance that allowed the crossing to open. -SABC NEWS

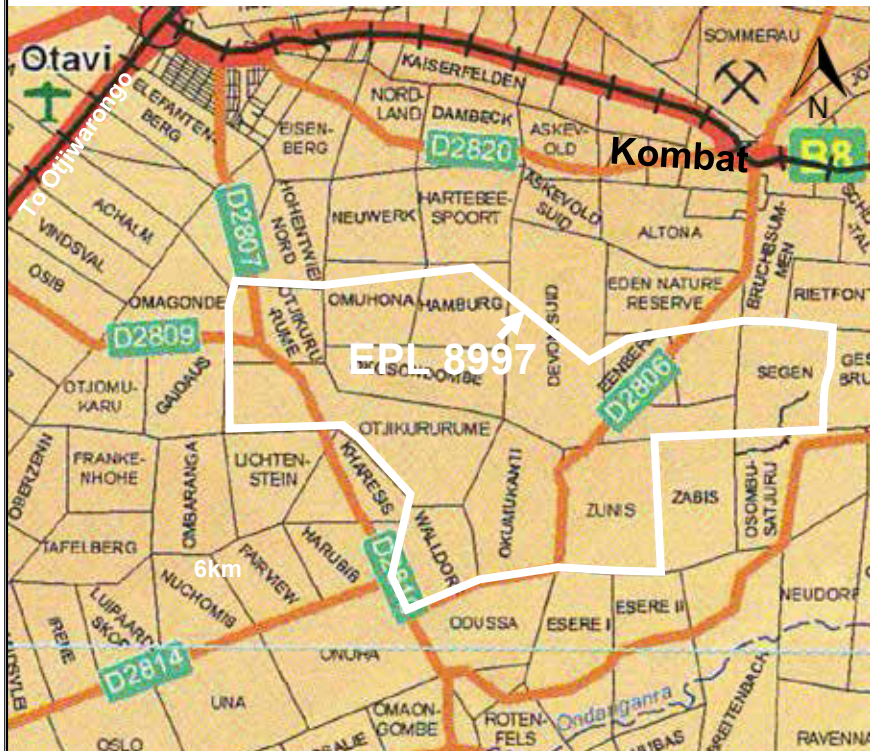
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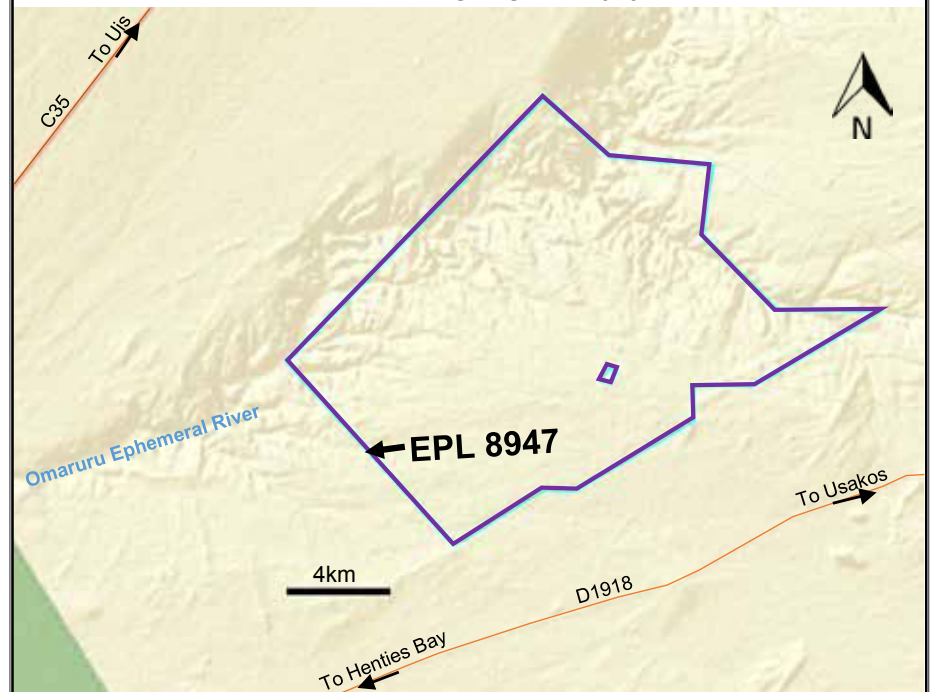
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Iran's Khamenei demands Israel stop bombardment of Gaza

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has accused Israel of carrying out a genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and warned Israel that it must pull back from its attacks on the besieged territory.

Speaking on Tuesday Khamenei said Israeli officials should face trial for their actions in Gaza and warned that "no one can stop" forces opposed to Israel if it continues its assault.

"If the crimes of the Zionist [Israeli] regime continue, Muslims and resistance forces will become impatient, and no one can stop them," Khamenei said. "The bombardment of Gaza must stop immediately."

"Regarding the situation in Gaza, we all have a responsibility to react; we must react," he said.

Iranian officials often use the term "axis of resistance" to refer to a network of Iran-backed armed groups throughout the region that includes Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Iran's Fars News Agency also reported that Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Deputy Commander-in-Chief Ali Fadavi warned of further action by Iran-backed groups across the region.

"The resistance front's shocks against



If the crimes of the Zionist [Israeli] regime continue, Muslims and resistance forces will become impatient, and no one can stop them

the Zionist regime will continue," he said.

Israel has pounded Gaza from the air since Hamas launched a surprise attack from Gaza on southern Israel on October 7, when hundreds of Hamas fighters breached the Israeli fence that surrounds Gaza and killed at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

After the attack, Israel cut off food, water, and electricity to the more than 2.3 million residents of Gaza and launched an aerial assault that has destroyed entire neighbourhoods, killed more than 3,000 people and wounded 12,500 others, according to Palestinian authorities.



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on Tuesday, October 17 [Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader via AP]

The question of potential expansion of the fighting to include not just Hamas, the Palestinian group that governs Gaza and receives some support from Iran, but more formidable Iran-backed groups such as Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, has loomed over the 11-day war.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday that supporting the Pales-

tinians was Iran's foreign policy priority but that the armed groups make their own independent decisions.

Israel has said it intends to destroy Hamas and has mobilised hundreds of thousands of military reservists ahead of an expected ground offensive on Gaza. Military experts have warned that any ground offensive into densely populated areas of Gaza would

be extremely challenging and could potentially lead to heavy losses on both sides.

The Israeli military suggested on Tuesday that it was considering other options as it prepares for "the next stages of the war" against Hamas.

"Everyone is talking about a ground offensive, but it could be something else," Israeli army spokesperson Richard Hecht said on Tuesday without providing further details.

"Any ground operation [by Israel into Gaza], starting such an operation, that could be a trigger" for other armed groups to join the war, Mahjoob Zweiri, a professor at Qatar University, told Al Jazeera.

The United States has sought to deter Iran-backed groups from joining the war, moving two aircraft carriers to the eastern Mediterranean and putting 2,000 of its troops on deployment alert. Israel has warned that any party that joins the fighting will pay a heavy price.

But a widening of the conflict could also cause considerable problems for Israel, which would be faced with the prospect of barrages of missiles from Hezbollah's considerable arsenal and a two-front war that could stretch the capacity of its forces.-AL JAZEERA

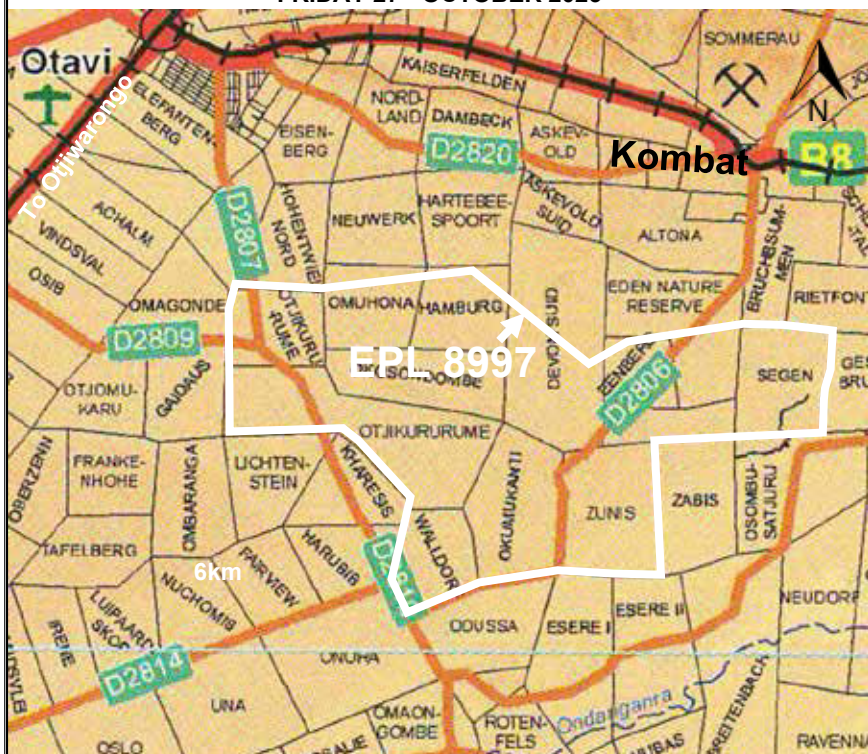
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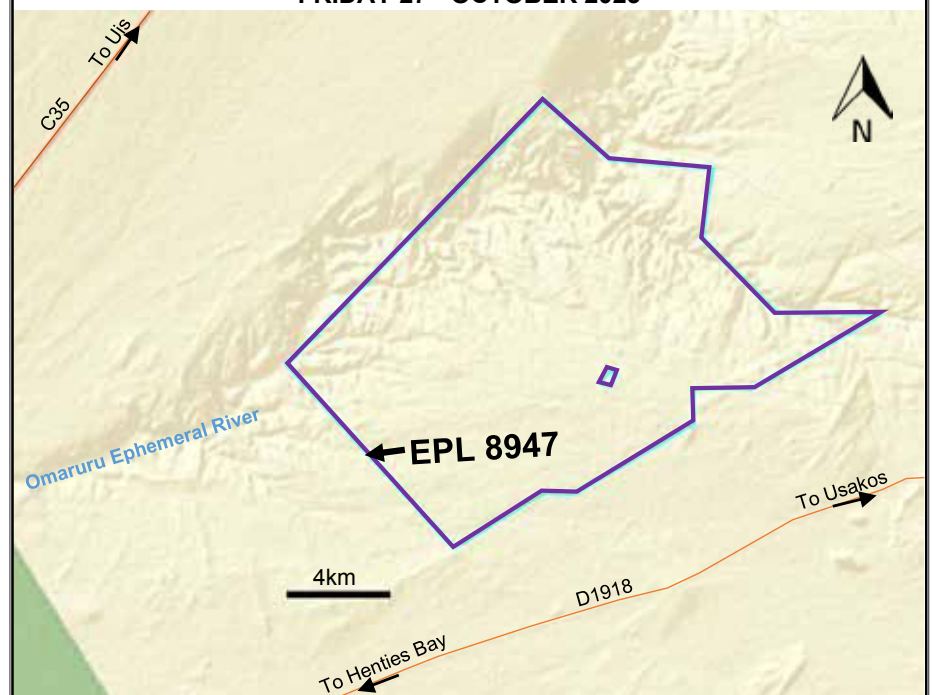
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From: Bianca Foelscher
P.O. Box 67 KARIBIB Tel. Nr. (064) 550109

To : Risk-Based Solutions cc
Dr. Sindila Mwiya e-mail address: frontdesk@rbs.com.na
Windhoek

Subject: Public Notice
Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)
by PRIMARY RESOURCES NAMIBIA cc
(proponent) for Proposed Minerals Exploration
Activities on EPL Nr. 8947 KARIBIB/OMARURU
district - Erongo Region.

Topic: Public Participation Meeting! (Stakeholder's Request!)

Dear Dr. Mwiya

- 1) Kindly please register me as interested and affected party as follows: Bianca Foelscher: Activist & Resident
P.O. Box 67 KARIBIB Tel. (064) 550109
via e-mail address: townplanner@karibibtown.org
- 2) As resident of Karibib, please inform when this proposed project will be introduced to the stakeholders via a relevant open debate public participation meeting. We need to know, what is planned for and as a matter of fact, already going on in our own (KARIBIB!) district!
- 3) Kindly please forward the background documents to:
townplanner@karibibtown.org
Kind regards
Bianca Foelscher

Primary Resources Namibia CC (the Proponent)

Background Information Document (BID) for Proposed
Minerals Exploration / Prospecting activities in the
Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 8947,
Karibib / Omaruru Districts, Erongo Region

October 2023

10 Schutzen Street,
Central Business District (CBD)
P. O. Box 1839,
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

PROPONENT, LISTED ACTIVITIES AND RELATED INFORMATION SUMMARY

TYPE OF AUTHORISATIONS REQUIRING ECC

Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 8947
for ECC for Exploration /Prospecting

NAME OF THE PROPONENT

Primary Resources Namibia CC

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)

ADDRESS OF THE PROPONENT AND CONTACT PERSON

Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC
10 Schutzen Street,
Central Business District (CBD)
P. O. Box 1839,
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

PROPOSED PROJECT

Proposed Minerals Exploration / Prospecting activities in the Exclusive
Prospecting License (EPL) No. 8947, Karibib / Omaruru Districts, Erongo Region

PROJECT LOCATION

Karibib / Omaruru Districts, Erongo Region

EPL Centre Coordinates:

Latitude: -21.844309

Longitude: 14.743136

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP)

Dr. Sindila Mwiya
PhD, PG Cert, MPhil, BEng (Hons), Pr Eng

CONTENT LIST

1. BACKGROUND	- 1 -
1.1 INTRODUCTION	- 1 -
1.2 PROPOSED PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES	- 1 -
1.3 PROJECT NEEDS AND DESIRABILITY	- 2 -
1.4 LOCATION, LAND USE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES.....	- 3 -
1.4.1 <i>Location and Land Use</i>	- 3 -
1.4.2 <i>Supporting Infrastructure and Services</i>	- 3 -
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES	- 9 -
2.1 INITIAL DESKTOP EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES	- 9 -
2.2 REGIONAL RECONNAISSANCE FIELD-BASED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES.....	- 9 -
2.3 INITIAL LOCAL FIELD-BASED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES.....	- 9 -
2.4 DETAILED LOCAL FIELD-BASED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES	- 10 -
2.5 PREFEASIBILITY AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES.....	- 10 -
3. REGULATORY AND CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS	- 11 -
3.1 MINERALS PROSPECTING AND MINING LEGISLATION.....	- 11 -
3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS	- 11 -
3.3 PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS.....	- 14 -
3.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	- 14 -
4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EIA AND EMP PROCESS	- 16 -
4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT APPROACH	- 16 -
4.2 EIA/ SCOPING AND EMP PROCESS	- 17 -
4.2.1 <i>Summary of the Steps</i>	- 17 -
4.2.2 <i>Assumptions and Limitations</i>	- 18 -
4.3 IMPACTS ASSESSMENT PROCESS.....	- 19 -
4.3.1 <i>Evaluation of Impacts</i>	- 19 -
4.3.2 <i>Likelihood (Probability) of Occurrence</i>	- 20 -
4.3.3 <i>Proposed Project Activities as Sources of Impacts</i>	- 20 -
4.3.4 <i>Assessment of the Overall Significant Impacts</i>	- 29 -
4.4 SPECIFIC MITIGATION MEASURES.....	- 32 -
4.5 STRUCTURE OF THE EIA/ SCOPING AND EMP REPORTS.....	- 32 -

List Figures

Figure 1.1:	Regional location of the EPL No 8947 Area.	- 4 -
Figure 1.2:	Detailed regional location, national road, and related supporting infrastructure networks around EPL 8947.....	- 5 -
Figure 1.3:	Detailed regional location of the EPL 8947 showing all the corner coordinates.....	- 6 -
Figure 1.4:	Land use around the EPL 8947 and related supporting infrastructure networks.....	- 7 -
Figure 1.5:	Topographic settings around the EPL 8947.	- 8 -
Figure 3.1:	Copy of the Public Notice to be published in two (2) newspapers for two (2) consecutive weeks and the more than twenty-one (21) days public consultation period Thursday 5th to Friday 27th October 2023	- 15 -
Figure 4.1:	RBS Schematic presentation of Namibia’s Environmental Assessment Procedure.....	- 18 -

List Tables

Table 4.1:	Summary of the proposed activities, alternatives, and key issues to be considered during the Environmental Assessment (EA) process covering EIA/ Scoping and EMP phases and in addition to the further inputs that may be provided by the registered stakeholders during the public consultation process.....	- 16 -
Table 4.2:	Scored on a scale from 0 to 5 for impact magnitude.	- 19 -
Table 4.3:	Scored time period over which the impact is expected to last.	- 20 -
Table 4.4:	Scored geographical extent of the induced change.....	- 20 -
Table 4.5:	Summary of the qualitative scale of probability categories (in increasing order of likelihood).....	- 20 -
Table 4.6:	Example results presentation framework of the sensitivity assessment of the receptors (Physical, Socioeconomic and Biological environments) with respect to the proposed exploration / prospecting activities.	- 21 -
Table 4.7:	Example results presentation framework of the scored time (duration) over which the impact is expected to last.....	- 23 -
Table 4.8:	Example results presentation framework of the scored geographical extent of the induced change.....	- 25 -
Table 4.9:	Example results presentation framework of the qualitative scale of probability occurrence.....	- 27 -
Table 4.10:	Example results presentation framework of significant matrix impact assessment for the proposed exploration activities.	- 30 -

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

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Under an EPL 8947 regime, the Proponent is authorised by the Ministry of Mines and Energy to conduct prospecting, not mining. Mining is undertaken under a separate authorisation called a Mining License (ML) which is only granted if an applicant has discovered and proved that the discovered minerals deposit is viable and can be developed into a profitable mine.

1.2 Proposed Prospecting Activities

The following is the summary of the proposed minerals exploration activities:

- (i) Initial desktop exploration activities covering the review of existing information and all previous prospecting activities undertaken in the general area in order to identify any potential target/s. This initial stage will also include the purchase and interpretation of the existing Government high resolution airborne geophysical data sets. No field-based visit or activities undertaken at this stage.
- (ii) Regional reconnaissance assessment covering field-based activities such as regional mapping and sampling to identify and verify potential targeted areas as delineated during the desktop stage (i) above. This stage is only undertaken if stage (i) has found some potential targets needing further investigation / verification. Alternatively, the licence is abandoned if no potential target is found.
- (iii) Initial local field-based activities such as widely spaced geological mapping, sampling, surveying and possible widely spaced trenching and drilling to test the viability of any delineated local target based on the regional data collected under (ii) above. The level or depth of investigation undertaken at this stage is subject to finding a viable / potential minerals deposits that need to be defined. Alternatively, the licence is abandoned if the identified target/s proves not viable, and.
- (iv) Detailed local field-based activities such as localised site-specific detailed geological mapping, trenching, bulk sampling, surveying, and detailed drilling to determine the feasibility of the delineated local targets. If the detailed exploration activities lead to positive results, the exploration data collected will then be put together into a prefeasibility report and if the

prefeasibility results prove positive, a detailed feasibility study supported by detailed site-specific drilling, bulk sampling and laboratory testing / test mining will be undertaken on the identified site-specific area. A positive feasibility study will be required to support the application for a Mining License (ML) together with a new site-specific Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) with specialist site-specific studies such as flora, fauna, socioeconomic, water, traffic, dust, and noise modelling and archaeology being undertaken to support the application for the new ECC for mining and minerals process operations (opening a mine).

Currently, there no minerals deposits or target known to exist within the EPL 8947 area and the Proponent intend to conduct prospecting activities as part of the search for economic minerals deposits based on the testing of the developed theoretical geological and minerals depositional models. There is no guarantee whatsoever that the proposed prospecting activities will find economic minerals resources that could led to the development of a mine. To find the targets, the company will buy airborne geophysical data (magnetics and radiometric) held by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and the data will be processed and using this information, the Proponent will look for possible targets. The targets will then be visited to see how the surface looks like if possible collect surface samples (Geochemical sampling) followed by further field-based assessments such as geological mapping to validating the airborne-based data delineated targets.

Before any site visit, permission will be requested from the land owner/s and an access agreement could be negotiated with the land owner/s if the Proponent want to continue with further field-based activities such as detailed mapping, trenching or drilling activities as may be required. It is the responsibility of the Proponent to negotiate access agreements with the land owners and to make sure that all security measures to protect the farmland and interests of the land owner/s are always observed and as may be agreed with the individual land owners.

Even if the mapping or drilling finds some indications of mineralisation, it takes many years (5 - 10 years or even more) to move an exploration / prospecting project to a mining stage and so many technical inputs including technology, markets, costs environmental liabilities and cost of services such water, roads and energy will need to form part of the project developmental stages, starting with the scoping, prefeasibility and then feasibility phases.

If a project is feasible, then the company will need to apply for a separate Mining License (ML) from the Government and a land owner agreement is required and mandatory before a Mining License is granted by Mining Commissioner. A Mining License application requires separate detailed site-specific studies of the local area of interest to have been conducted as part of the feasibility study. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and specialist studies such as water, fauna, flora, dust, noise for mining operations as well as linear structures such as water, roads and powerline form part of the feasibility study to be conducted before such a project can even be considered for review by the Government.

1.3 Project Needs and Desirability

The proposed exploration activities have limited to no local socioeconomic benefits for the local communities. The only tangible benefits of the proposed exploration activities are mainly centred around the payment of the annual license rental fees to the central Government through the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), payment of services and land access agreement.

The following is the summary of other likely proposed project benefits:

- ❖ Provisional contractual employment opportunities for specialist services companies involved in minerals explorations during the minerals prospecting process that could take many years and only if potential minerals targets are discovered within the EPL area.
- ❖ Expansion of the subsurface knowledge-base: The exploration data to be generated will be highly useful in the search for future subsurface resources such as minerals, water, geothermal and general geoscience research, and development.

- ❖ Contribution to the subsurface knowledge-base that will promote the coexistence of subsurface operations with surface activities where compatible, and.
- ❖ Contribution to the development of local infrastructures as may be applicable especially in event that potential minerals targets requiring field-based studies to be conducted are identified.

1.4 Location, Land Use, Infrastructure and Services

1.4.1 Location and Land Use

The Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) No. 8947 is in the Karibib / Omaruru District of the Erongo Region, in the west-central Namibia (Figs. 1.2 - 1.4). The general topography is dominated by flat landscape with topographic high area characterised by dendritic ephemeral rivers network (Fig. 1.5).

The general land use of the area is mainly dominated by agriculture (cattle and small stock), minerals prospecting and small-scale mining operations with game (wildlife) farming, tourism, and hospitality as one of the fast-growing lands uses options in the general area to the east of the EPL but not necessary within or proximity of the EPL area (Fig. 1.4).

The EPL area has seen extensive exploration activities and small-scale dimensions stone mining operations. There are several excavations, paths / tracks, old dimensions stone quarry, waste rocks stockpiles as well as abonnement equipment from previous operations.

1.4.2 Supporting Infrastructure and Services

The EPL area is well connected to the national supporting road infrastructure and is accessible by road using the B2 road leading to Swakopmund and branching of on the D1918 or the C34 road leading to Henties Bay (Figs. 1.1- 1.5).

Several minor gravel roads cut across these EPL area and will be used to access the area of interest within the EPL 8947.

There is no mobile / fixed telecommunication services, local water, and electricity infrastructure networks within the EPL area. However, the proposed exploration and small-scale test mining activities programme will not require major water and energy supplies.

Sources of water supply for exploration and small-scale test mining will be obtained from local boreholes to be drilled based on the results of the groundwater exploration activities that will be undertaken as part of the geological mapping and drilling operations. Alternatively, a water tanker collecting water from the Town of Usakos / Henties Bay be considered as another means of supply water for the proposed exploration and small-scale test mining operations.

Electricity supply will be provided by diesel generators and solar as maybe required. However, in an event of a discovery of economic minerals deposit that could be developed into a mining project, the sources of water supply will be provided by NamWater from possible limited local borehole to be drilled in the short-term and from pipeline from any nearby NamWater Scheme.

Electricity supply will be provided by NamPower from already existing infrastructure in the region in addition to use of renewable energies sources such as solar and possible wind.

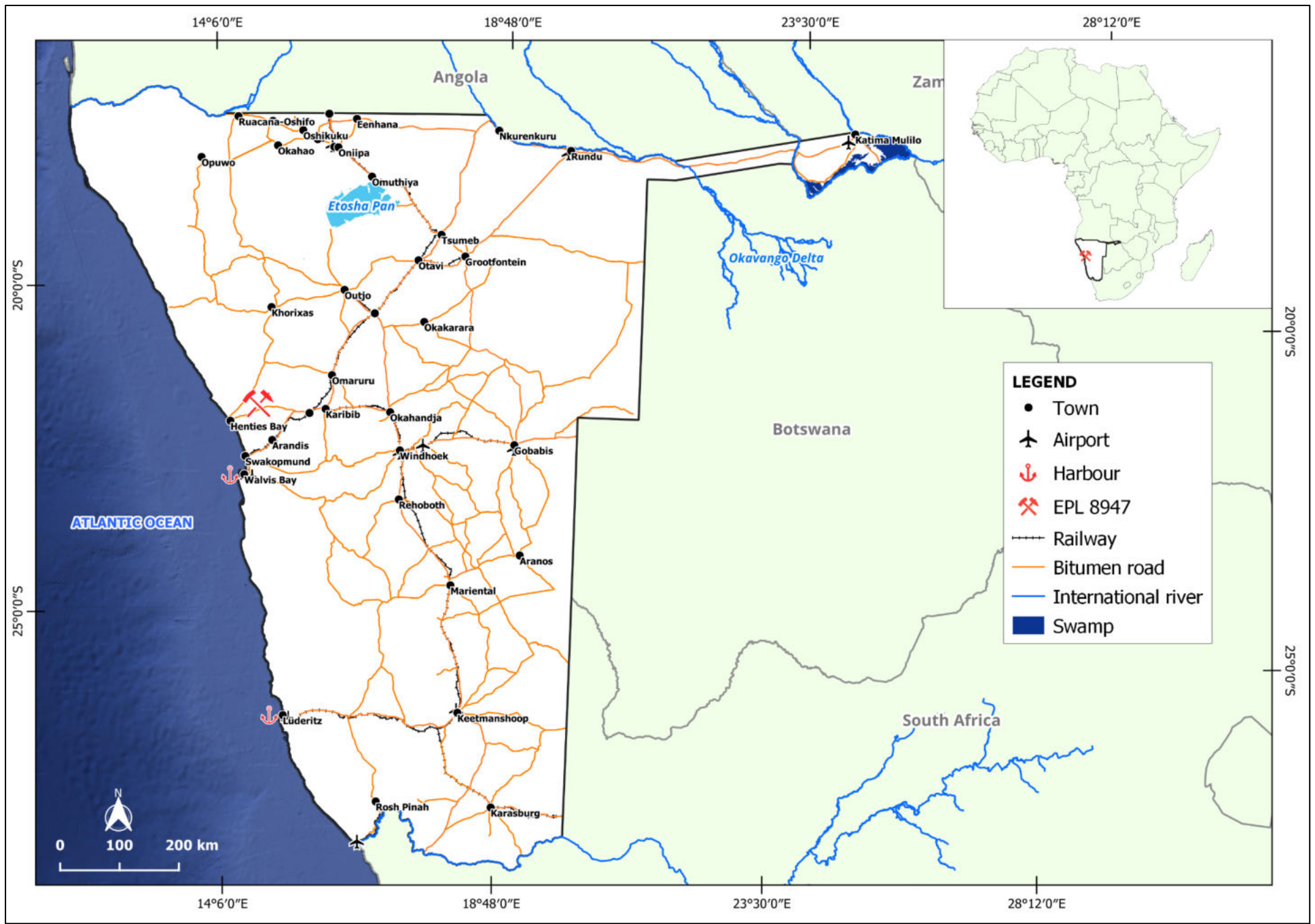


Figure 1.1: Regional location of the EPL No 8947 Area.

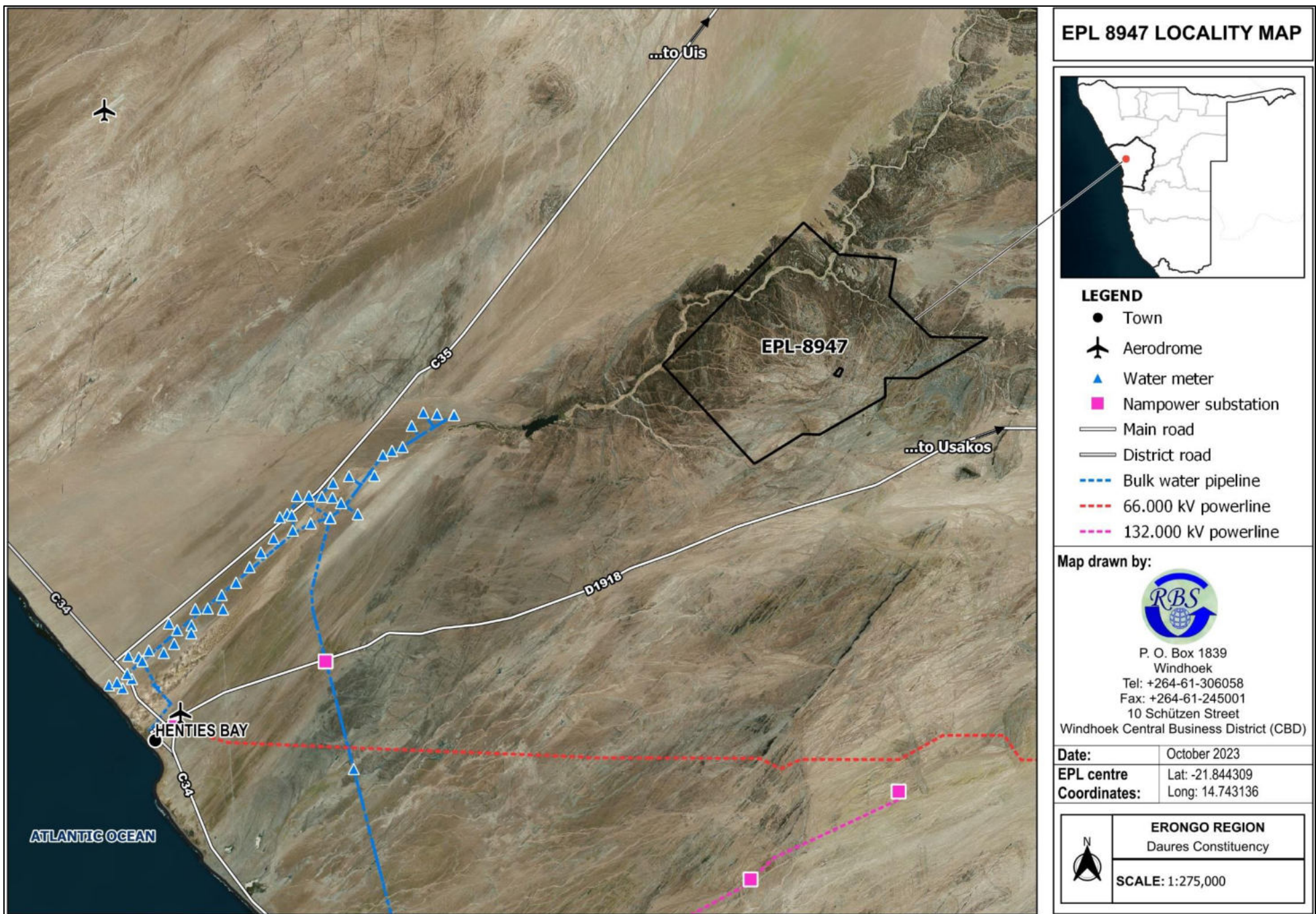


Figure 1.2: Detailed regional location, national road, and related supporting infrastructure networks around EPL 8947.

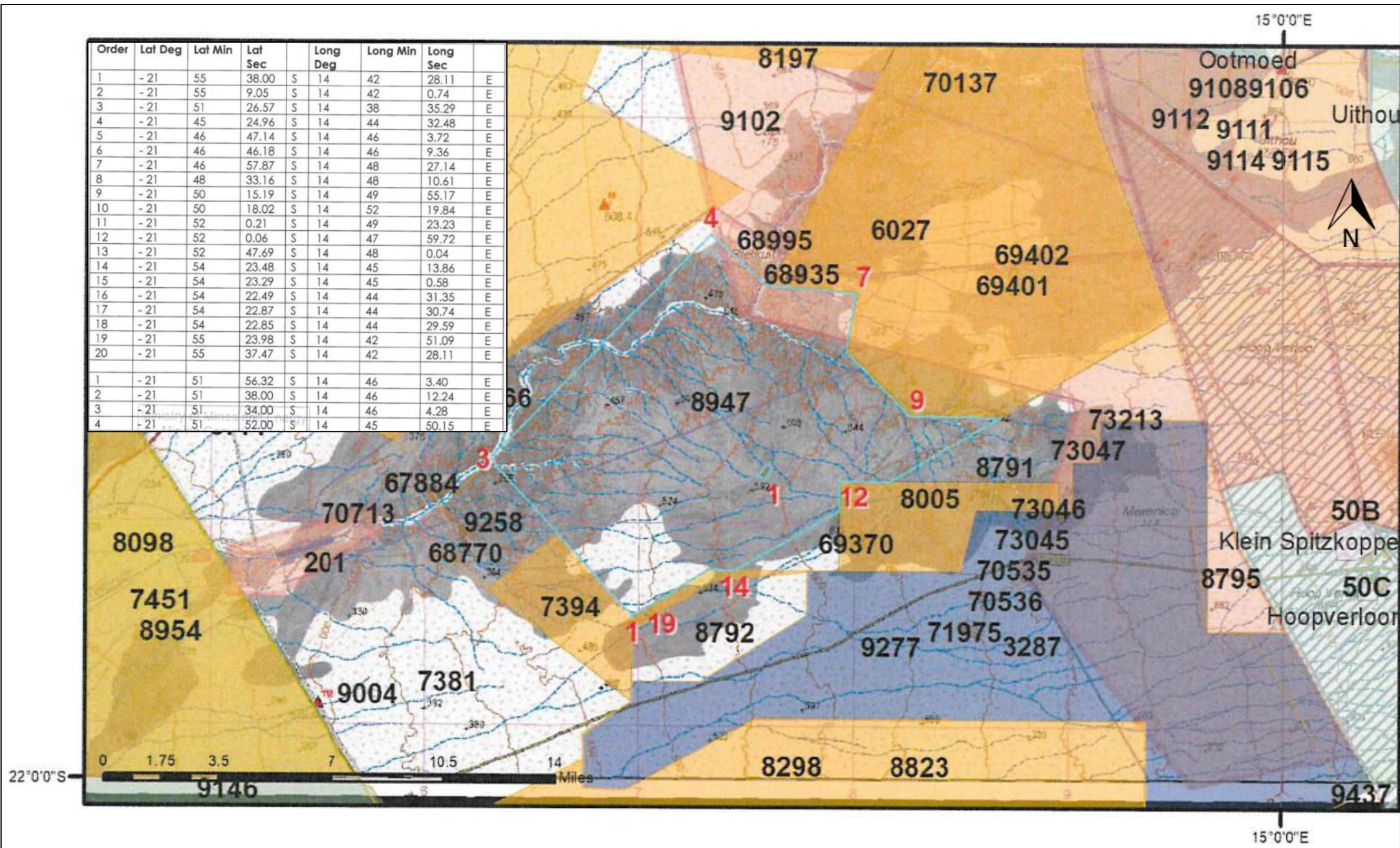


Figure 1.3: Detailed regional location of the EPL 8947 showing all the corner coordinates (Source: MME, 2023).

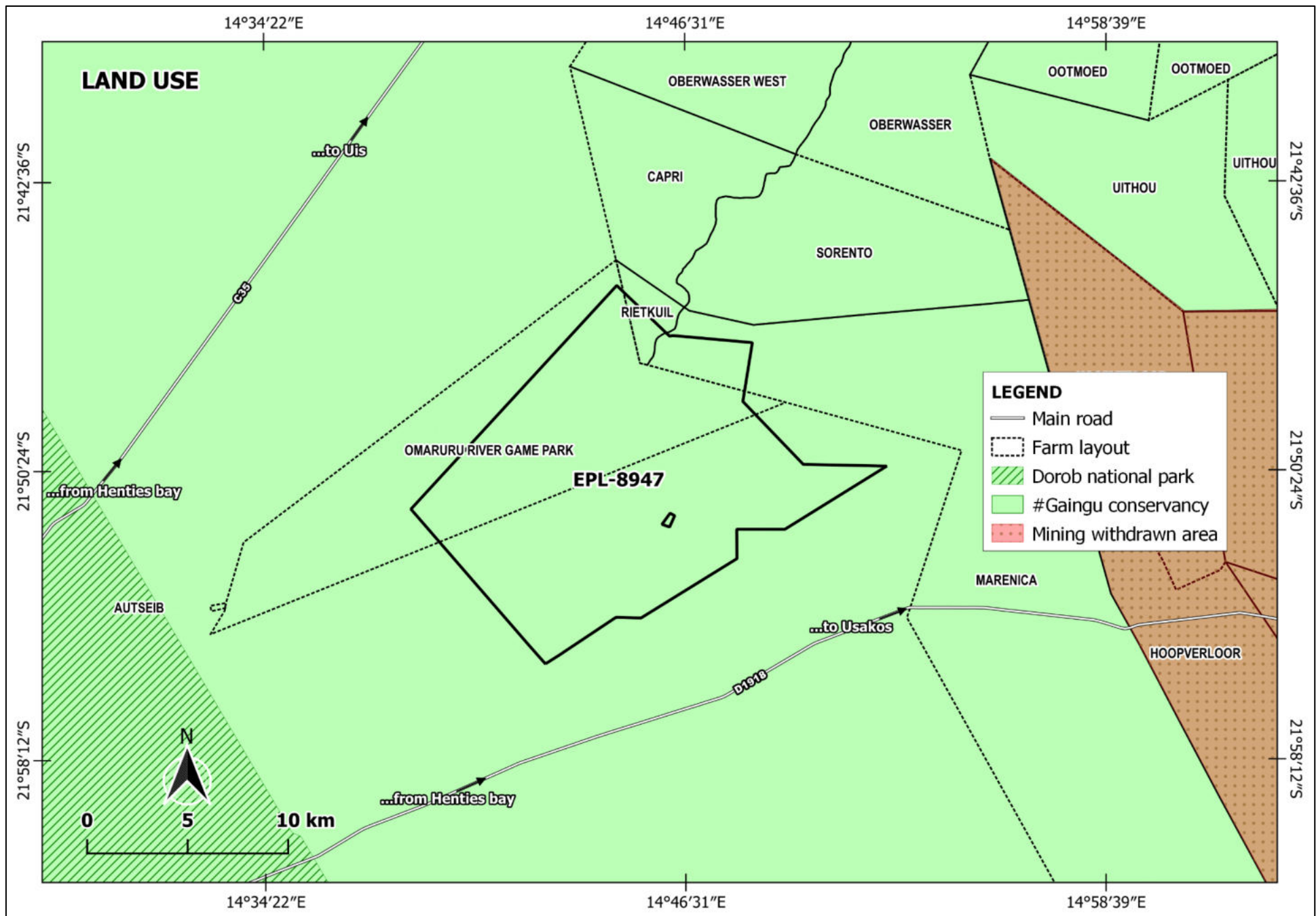


Figure 1.4: Land use around the EPL 8947 and related supporting infrastructure networks.

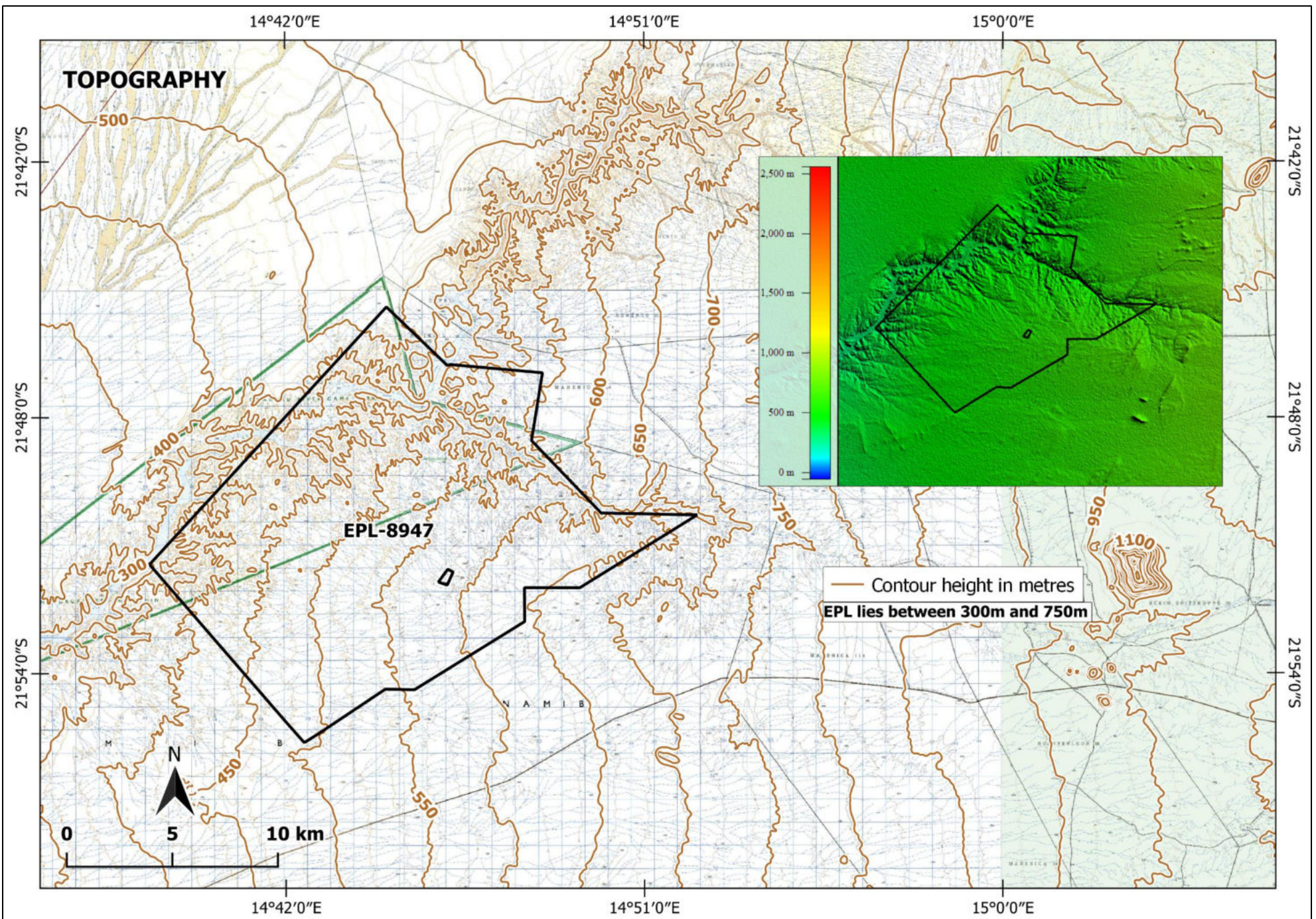


Figure 1.5: Topographic settings around the EPL 8947.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES

2.1 Initial Desktop Exploration Activities

Initial desktop exploration activities (without field-work being conducted) lasting for up to six (6) months or more will include the following:

- (i) General evaluation of satellite, topographic, land tenure, accessibility, supporting infrastructures and socioeconomic environment data.
- (ii) Purchase and analysis of existing Government high resolution magnetics and radiometric geophysical data.
- (iii) Purchase and analysis of existing Government aerial hyperspectral, and.
- (iv) Data interpretation and delineating of potential targets for future reconnaissance regional field-based activities for delineated targets.

2.2 Regional Reconnaissance Field-Based Exploration Activities

Regional reconnaissance field-based exploration activities lasting between six (6) months to year will involve the following:

- (i) Regional geological, geochemical, topographical and remote sensing mapping and data analysis.
- (ii) Regional geochemical sampling aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken.
- (iii) Regional geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken.
- (iv) Limited field-based support and logistical activities lasting between one (1) to two (2) days, and.
- (v) Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets for future detailed site-specific exploration if the results are positive and supports further exploration of the delineated targets.

2.3 Initial Local Field-Based Exploration Activities

Initial local field-based exploration activities lasting between 1 – 2 years will include the following:

- (i) Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during regional reconnaissance field activities.
- (ii) Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken.
- (iii) Ground geophysical survey (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above).
- (iv) Possible Trenching (Subject to the outcomes of i - iii above).
- (v) Field-based support and logistical activities will be very limited focus on a site-specific area for a very short time (maximum five (5) days), and.

- (vi) Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets.

2.4 Detailed Local Field-Based Exploration Activities

Detailed local field-based exploration activities that can take many years will include the following:

- (i) Access preparation and related logistics to support activities.
- (ii) Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during the initial field-based activities.
- (iii) Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken.
- (iv) Ground geophysical survey, trenching, drilling, and sampling (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above).

2.5 Prefeasibility and Feasibility Studies

The preparation of the prefeasibility and feasibility studies forms the final stages of the minerals exploration process and can take many years to complete and prove that a specific mineral deposit is viable for developing a mine. A positive feasibility study outcome is required to support an application for a Mining License (ML). The following is summary of the activities that will form part of a prefeasibility and or feasibility study:

- (i) Detailed site-specific field-based support and logistical activities, surveys, detailed geological mapping.
- (ii) Detailed drilling and bulk sampling and testing for ore reserve calculations.
- (iii) Geotechnical studies for mine layout and design.
- (iv) Mine planning and designs including all supporting infrastructures (water, energy, and access) and test mining activities.
- (v) EIA and EMP to support the ECC for mining operations, and.
- (vi) Preparation of feasibility report and application for Mining License if the feasibility study proves positive and supportive to develop a mining project.

3. REGULATORY AND CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Minerals Prospecting and Mining Legislation

The national legislation governing minerals prospecting and mining activities in Namibia fall under the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) as the Competent Authority (CA) responsible for granting authorisations for subsurface rights. The Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act (No. 33 of 1992) is the most important legal instrument governing minerals prospecting and mining activities in Namibia. A new Bill, to replace the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act (No 33 of 1992) is being prepared and puts more emphasis on good environmental management practices, local participation in the mining industry and promotes value addition as prescribed in the Minerals Policy of 2003.

The Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act (No 33 of 1992) regulates reconnaissance, prospecting (exploration) and mining activities. The Mining Commissioner, appointed by the Minister, is responsible for implementing the provisions of this Act including reporting requirements, environmental obligations as well as the associated regulations such as the Health and Safety Regulations.

3.2 Environmental Assessment Requirements

The proposed prospecting activities are listed in the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2012 and cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

As part of the conditions for granting the EPL 8947 to the Proponent by the Mining Commissioner in the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), the Proponent is required to have undertaken environmental assessment comprising Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Scoping and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) studies for the proposed minerals prospecting activities to support the application for an ECC.

This Background Information Document (BID) has been prepared to be used as a source of background information for stakeholder and public consultation process required to be undertaken as part of the environmental assessment process. The BID will also be used to register the project with the Environmental Commissioner in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT).

Following the registration of the project with the Environmental Commissioner, the project will be officially screened by the Environmental Commissioner and feedback will be provided to the Proponent on the types of reports (Scoping or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)) and supporting documents to be prepared and submitted in support of the application for ECC with respect to the proposed minerals prospecting in the EPL 8947.

This BID will be followed by the preparation of the Scoping or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Reports that will support the application for ECC. All the environmental regulatory authorities responsible for environmental protection and management in relation to the proposed project including their role in regulating environmental protection are listed in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Legislation relevant to the proposed prospecting activities in the EPL 8947.

LAW	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
<p>Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990</p>	<p>The Constitution is the supreme law in Namibia, providing for the establishment of the main organs of state (the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary) as well as guaranteeing various fundamental rights and freedoms. Provisions relating to the environment are contained in Chapter 11, article 95, which is entitled "promotion of the Welfare of the People". This article states that the Republic of Namibia shall – "Actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting, inter alia, policies aimed at ... maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for all Namibians, both present and future. The Government shall provide measures against the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear waste on Namibian territory."</p>
<p>Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act, 1992 Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)</p>	<p>The Minerals Act governs minerals prospecting and mining. The Act <i>provides for the reconnaissance, prospecting, and mining for, and disposal of, and the exercise of control over minerals in Namibia. and to provide for matters incidental thereto. A new Minerals Bills is currently under preparation.</i></p>
<p>Environmental Management Act (2007) - Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)</p>	<p>The purpose of the Act is <i>to give effect to Article 95(l) and 91(c) of the Namibian Constitution by establishing general principles for the management of the environment and natural resources. to promote the co-ordinated and integrated management of the environment. to give statutory effect to Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy. to enable the Minister of Environment and Tourism to give effect to Namibia's obligations under international conventions.</i> In terms of the legislation, it will be possible to exercise control over certain listed development activities and activities within defined sensitive areas. The listed activities in sensitive areas require an Environmental Assessment to be completed before a decision to permit development can be taken. The legislation describes the circumstances requiring Environmental Assessments. Activities listed as per the provisions of the Act will require Environmental Assessment unless the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, in consultation with the relevant Competent Authority, determines otherwise and approves the exception.</p>
<p>Water Act 54 of 1956 Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land reform (MAWLR)</p>	<p>This Act provides for the control, conservation and use of water for domestic, agricultural, urban, and industrial purposes. In terms of Section 6, there is no right of ownership in public water and its control and use is regulated and provided for in the Act. In accordance with the Act, the proposed project must ensure that mechanisms are implemented to prevent water pollution. Certain permits will also be required to abstract groundwater (already obtained) as well as for "water works". The broad definition of water works will include the reservoir on Site (as this is greater than 20,000m³), water treatment facilities and pipelines. Due to the water scarcity of the area, all water will be recycled (including domestic wastewater) and the Mine will be operated on a zero-discharge philosophy. It will, therefore, not be necessary to obtain permits for discharge of effluent.</p> <p>Section 23 of the Act requires environment rehabilitation after closure of the Mine, particularly, in this instance to obviate groundwater pollution and potential pollution resulting from run-off. This Act is due to be replaced by the Water Resources Management Act 24 of 2004.</p>
<p><i>Forest Act 12 of 2001</i> - Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)</p>	<p>The Act provide for the establishment of a Forestry Council and the appointment of certain officials. to consolidate the laws relating to the management and use of forests and forest produce. to provide for the protection of the environment and the control and management of forest fires.</p> <p>Under Part IV Protection of the environment, Section 22(1) of the Act, it is unlawful for any person to: cut, destroy, or remove:</p> <p>(a) any vegetation which is on a sand dune or drifting sand or in a gully unless the cutting, destruction or removal is done for the purpose of stabilising the sand or gully or</p> <p>(b) any living tree, bush or shrub growing within 100m of a river, stream, or watercourse.</p> <p>Should either of the above be unavoidable, it will be necessary to obtain a permit from the Ministry. Protected tree species as listed in the Regulations shall not be cut, destroyed, or removed.</p>
<p>Hazardous Substance Ordinance 14 of 1974 Ministry of Health and Social Services</p>	<p>Provisions for hazardous waste are amended in this act as it provides <i>"for the control of substances which may cause injury or ill-health to or death of human beings by reason of their toxic, corrosive, irritant, strongly sensitizing or flammable nature or the generation of pressure thereby in certain circumstances. to provide for the prohibition and control of the importation, sale, use, operation, application, modification, disposal or dumping of such substance. and to provide for matters connected therewith"</i></p>

Table 1.1: *Cont.*

<p>Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, 1995, Act No.6 of 1995 Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)</p>	<p>This Act provide for the acquisition of agricultural land by the State for the purposes of land reform and for the allocation of such land to Namibian citizens who do not own or otherwise have the use of any or of adequate agricultural land, and foremost to those Namibian citizens who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past discriminatory laws or practices. to vest in the State a preferent right to purchase agricultural land for the purposes of the Act. to provide for the compulsory acquisition of certain agricultural land by the State for the purposes of the Act. to regulate the acquisition of agricultural land by foreign nationals. to establish a Lands Tribunal and determine its jurisdiction. and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>
<p>Explosives Act 26 of 1956 (as amended in SA to April 1978) - Ministry Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (MHAISS)</p>	<p>All explosive magazines are to be registered with the Ministry of Mines and Energy as accessory works. In addition, the magazines must be licensed as required by Section 22. The quantity of explosives and the way it is stored must be approved by an inspector. The inspector has powers to enter the premises at any time to conduct inspections regarding the nature of explosive, quantity and the way it is stored. At closure, all explosives are to be disposed of accordingly.</p>
<p>Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance 11 of 1976. Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)</p>	<p>This regulation sets out principles for <i>the prevention of the pollution of the atmosphere and for matters incidental thereto</i>. Part III of the Act sets out regulations pertaining to atmospheric pollution by smoke. While preventative measures for dust atmospheric pollution are outlined in Part IV and Part V outlines provisions for Atmospheric pollution by gases emitted by vehicles.</p>
<p>The Nature Conservation Ordinance, Ordinance 4 of 1975, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)</p>	<p>During the Mine's activities, care must be taken to ensure that protected plant species and the eggs of protected and game bird species are not disturbed or destroyed. If such destruction or disturbance is inevitable, a permit must be obtained in this regard from the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. Should the Proponent operate a nursery to propagate indigenous plant species for rehabilitation purposes, a permit will be required. At this stage, however, it is envisaged that this type of activity will be contracted out to encourage small business development.</p>
<p>Labour Act, 1992, Act No. 6 of 1992 as amended in the Labour Act, 2007 (Act No. 11 of 2007) Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC)</p>	<p>The labour Act gives effect to the constitutional commitment of Article 95 (11), to promote and maintain the welfare of the people. This Act is aimed at establishing a <i>comprehensive labour law for all employees. to entrench fundamental labour rights and protections. to regulate basic terms and conditions of employment. to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees</i> under which provisions are made in chapter 4. Chapter 5 of the act improvises on the <i>protection of employees from unfair labour practice</i>.</p>
<p>Petroleum Products and Energy Act 13 of 1990 Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)</p>	<p>Any consumer installation as envisaged in this Act must be licensed. Appropriate consumer installation certificate will need to be obtained from the Ministry for each fuel installation. The construction of the installation must be designed in such a manner as to prevent environmental contamination.</p> <p>Any certificate holder or other person in control of activities related to any petroleum product is obliged to report any major petroleum product spill (defined as a spill of more than 200ℓ per spill) to the Minister. Such person is also obliged to take all steps as may be necessary in accordance with good petroleum industry practices to clean up the spill. Should this obligation not be met, the Minister is empowered to take steps to clean up the spill and to recover the costs thereof from the person.</p> <p>General conditions apply to all certificates issued. These include conditions relating to petroleum spills and the abandonment of the Site. The regulation further provides that the Minister may impose special conditions relating to the preparation and assessment of environmental assessments and the safe disposal of petroleum products.</p>
<p>National Heritage Act 27 of 2004 Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MEAC)</p>	<p>This Act provides provisions for the protection and conservation of places and objects of heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects. The proposed activities will ensure that if any archaeological or paleontological objects, as described in the Act, are found during the implementation of the activities, such a find shall be reported to the Ministry immediately. If necessary, the relevant permits must be obtained before disturbing or destroying any heritage</p>

3.3 Public Consultations

Public consultation and engagement process are part of the environmental assessment process for this project. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations No. 30 of 2012 and the Environmental Management Act, (EMA), 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007), a person conducting a public consultation process must give notice to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) of the application which is subjected to public consultation.

The EIA Regulations clearly state that potential interested, and affected parties must be provided with a reasonable opportunity (21 days) to comment on the application under Section 21(6) of the EIA Regulations.

In line with the provisions of the regulations, the public notices as shown in Fig 3.1 will be published in the local newspapers during the month of **October 2023**. Public Notice will be published in two (2) newspaper for two (2) consecutive weeks with respect to the public consultation starting from **Thursday 5th October 2023, New Era Newspaper publication**.

The closing date for registration and submission of written objections, comments, inputs to the environmental assessment process is **Friday 27th October 2023**.

The application for ECC supported by the Final EIA / Scoping and EMP Reports is expected to be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism through the Competent Authority, the Mining Commissioner in the Ministry of Mines and Energy during month of **November 2023**.

3.4 Aims and Objectives of the Environmental Assessment

The aims and objectives of the Environmental Assessment (EA) covering this BID and the EIA / Scoping and EMP Reports to be recommended by the Environmental Commissioner with respect to the proposed minerals exploration activities in the EPL 8947 area are:

- ❖ To assess the likely positive and negative short and long-term (throughout the proposed exploration programme) impacts on the receiving environment (physical, biological, and socioeconomic environments) at local area (EPL area), regional (Erongo Region), national (Namibia) and Global levels using appropriate assessment guidelines, methods and techniques covering the complete project lifecycle.
- ❖ The development of appropriate general mitigation measures that will enhance the positive impacts and reduce the likely negative impacts to be identified or anticipated. Such mitigation measures shall be contained in the EMP Report covering the entire project lifecycle and to be implemented and monitored by the Proponent, and.
- ❖ To support the application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed minerals exploration activities.

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) BY
PRIMARY RESOURCES NAMIBIA CC FOR PROPOSED MINERALS
EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE
(EPL) No. 8947, KARIBIB \ OMARURU DISTRICTS, ERONGO REGION

PRIMARY RESOURCES NAMIBIA CC (the "PROPONENT") has been granted the preparedness to grant application for Exclusive Prospecting Licenses (EPL) No. 8947 with respect to Dimension Stone, Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals, Precious Metals and Nuclear Fuels group of minerals. The physical license will only be granted by the Mining Commissioner if the Proponent is issued with an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) by the Environmental Commissioner. The EPL No. 8947 has a total area of 20873.4747 Ha and falls within the State land as indicated on the map. If the ECC is granted, the Proponent intends to conduct exploration / prospecting activities starting with desktop studies including the processing and interpretation of the existing geophysical and other historical minerals exploration datasets, followed by regional field-based reconnaissance activities. If the initial exploration results are positive, the Proponent will implement detailed site-specific field-based activities using techniques such as geological mapping, geophysical surveys, trenching, drilling, and sampling for laboratory tests. The proposed prospecting activities are listed in the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) and the EIA Regulations 30 of 2012 and cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). In fulfilment of these environmental requirements, the Proponent has appointed Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC as the Environmental Consultant, led by Dr Sindila Mwiya as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to prepare the Environmental Reports to support the application for ECC. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APS) are hereby invited to register and submit written comments / objections / inputs with respect to the proposed prospecting activities. A Background Information Document (BID) is available on request upon registration.

REGISTER BY EMAIL: frontdesk@rbs.com.na

Dr Sindila Mwiya (EAP/Technical Permitting Advisor/Consultant

**CONSULTATION DURATION AND DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IS:
FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 2023**

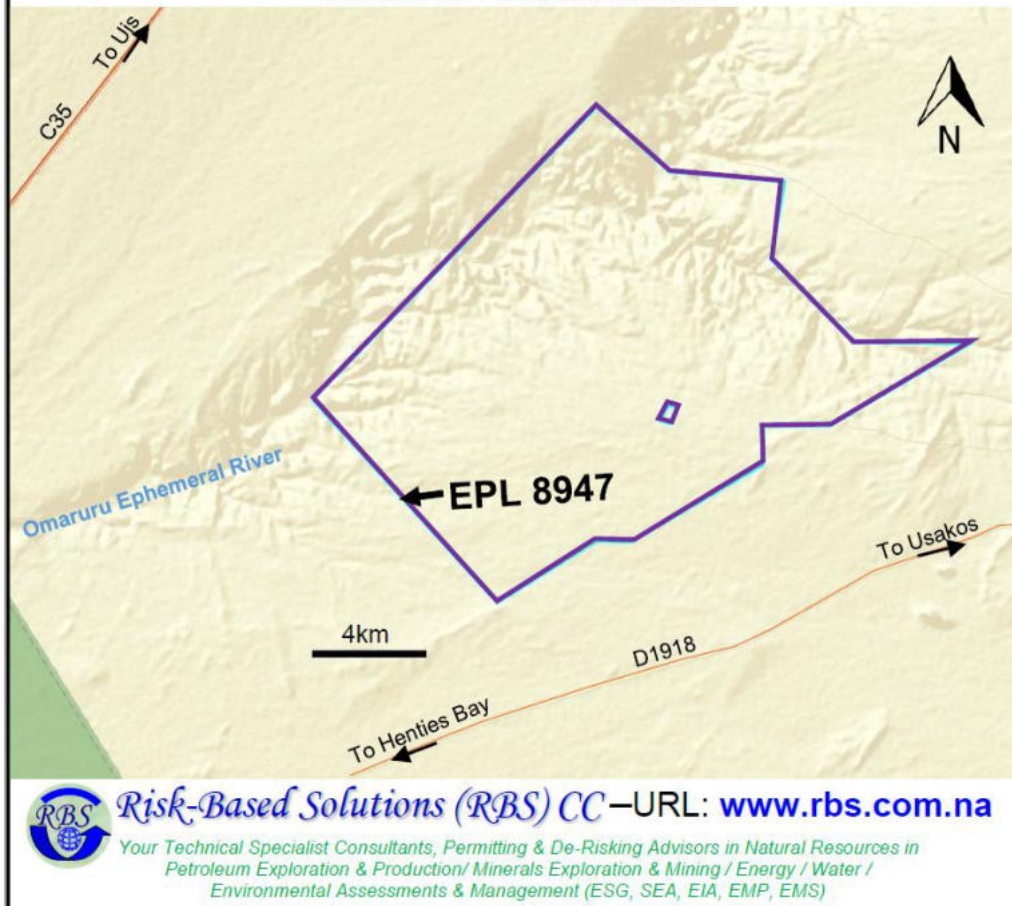


Figure 3.1: Copy of the Public Notice to be published in two (2) newspapers for two (2) consecutive weeks and the more than twenty-one (21) days public consultation period **Thursday 5th to Friday 27th October 2023.**

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EIA AND EMP PROCESS

4.1 Environmental Assessment Approach

The environmental assessment process adopted for this project took into consideration the provisions of the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) and all other applicable national laws and Regulations as summarised in Table 3.1. The summary of the proposed activities, alternatives and key issues to be considered in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process are summarised in Table 4.1.

The EIA / Scoping and EMP process to be undertaken for the proposed minerals explorations activities in the EPL 8947 shall be performed with reasonable skill, care and diligence in accordance with professional standards and practices existing at the date of performance of the assessment and that the guidelines, methods and techniques used and applied in this study shall conform to the national regulatory requirements, process and specifications in Namibia and in particular as required by Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) and the client (Proponent). The preparation of the EIA / Scoping and EMP reports shall be undertaken in line with the January 2015 MEFT Environmental Assessment Reporting Guideline.

Table 4.1: Summary of the proposed activities, alternatives, and key issues to be considered during the Environmental Assessment (EA) process covering EIA/ Scoping and EMP phases and in addition to the further inputs that may be provided by the registered stakeholders during the public consultation process.

PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIVITIES	ALTERNATIVES TO BE CONSIDERED	KEY ISSUES TO BE EVALUATED AND ASSESSED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP) / MITIGATION MEASURES DEVELOPED	
(i) Initial desktop exploration activities (review of existing information and all previous activities in order to identify any potential target/s in each EPL). (ii) Regional reconnaissance field-based activities such as regional mapping and sampling to identify and verify potential targeted areas based on the recommendations of the desktop work undertaken under (i) above. (iii) Initial local field-based activities such as widely spaced mapping, sampling, surveying and possible trenching and drilling to determine the viability of any delineated local target, and. (iv) Detailed local field-based activities such as very detailed mapping, trenching, bulk sampling, surveying and detailed drilling to determine the feasibility of any delineated local target and conduct test mining activities.	(i) Location for Minerals Occurrence: Several economic deposits are known to exist in different parts of Namibia and some have been explored by different companies over the years. The proponent intends to explore / prospect for possible economic minerals occurrence in the EPL area as licensed.	Potential land use conflicts / opportunities for coexistence between proposed exploration and other existing land uses such as conservation, tourism and agriculture	
	(ii) Other Alternative Land Uses: Game farming, tourism and agriculture	Impacts on the Physical Environment	Natural Environment such as air, noise, water, dust etc.
	(iii) Ecosystem Function (What the ecosystem does).		Built Environment such as existing houses, roads, transport systems, Buildings, energy and water and other supporting infrastructure
	(iv) Ecosystem Services.	Impacts on the Biological Environment	Socioeconomic, archaeological, and cultural impacts on the local societies and communities
	(v) Use Values.		Flora
	(vi) Non-Use, or Passive Use.	Fauna	Habitat
	(vii) The No-Action Alternative	Others to be identified during the public consultation process and preparation of the EIA and EMP Reports	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use
	(viii) Others to be identified during the public consultation process and preparation of the EIA and EMP Reports		Others to be identified during the public consultation process and preparation of the EIA and EMP Reports

4.2 EIA/ Scoping and EMP Process

4.2.1 Summary of the Steps

The EIA/ Scoping and EMP process used for this project took into considerations the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2012 and the Environmental Management Act (EMA), 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) as outlined in Fig. 4.1.

The environmental assessment steps undertaken or still to be taken are summarised as follows (Fig. 4.1):

- (i) Project screening process (**Undertaken in September 2023**).
- (ii) Preparation of the Background Information Document (BID) (**Undertaken in October 2023**).
- (iii) Preparation of the Public Notice to be published in the local newspapers as part of required public consultation process (**Undertaken in October 2023**).
- (iv) Opened the Stakeholder register (**Undertaken on the 5th October 2023**).
- (v) Public Notice to be published in two (2) newspapers for two (2) consecutive weeks and the more than twenty-one (21) days public consultation period (**To be undertaken between Thursday 5th to Friday 27th October 2023**).
- (vi) Project registration / notification through the completion of the online formal registration / notification form on the MEFT online Portal (www.eia.met.gov.na) (**Undertaken in October 2021**).
- (vii) Preparation of the Draft EIA/ Scoping and EMP Reports for client review, public and stakeholder inputs (**To be Undertaken in October- November 2023**).
- (viii) Comments and inputs from the client and I&APs consultations used to finalise the EIA / Scoping and EMP Reports (**To be Undertaken in October- November 2023**).
- (ix) The final EIA/ Scoping and EMP reports to be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in MEFT through the MME (Competent Authority) in fulfilment of all the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations No. 30 of 2012 and the Environmental Management Act, (EMA), 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) for application of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed project (**November 2023**).
- (x) Following the submission of the application for ECC to the Environmental Commissioner, the public and stakeholders who are interested or affected by the proposed project will have additional **fourteen (14) days** to submit comments / inputs about the proposed project activities direct to the Environmental Commissioner when the application will be made available for additional comments / inputs by the Environmental Commissioner on the MEFT digital Portal www.eia.meft.gov.na, and.
- (xi) Wait for the Record of Decision (RD) from the Environmental Commissioner (**From November 2023**).

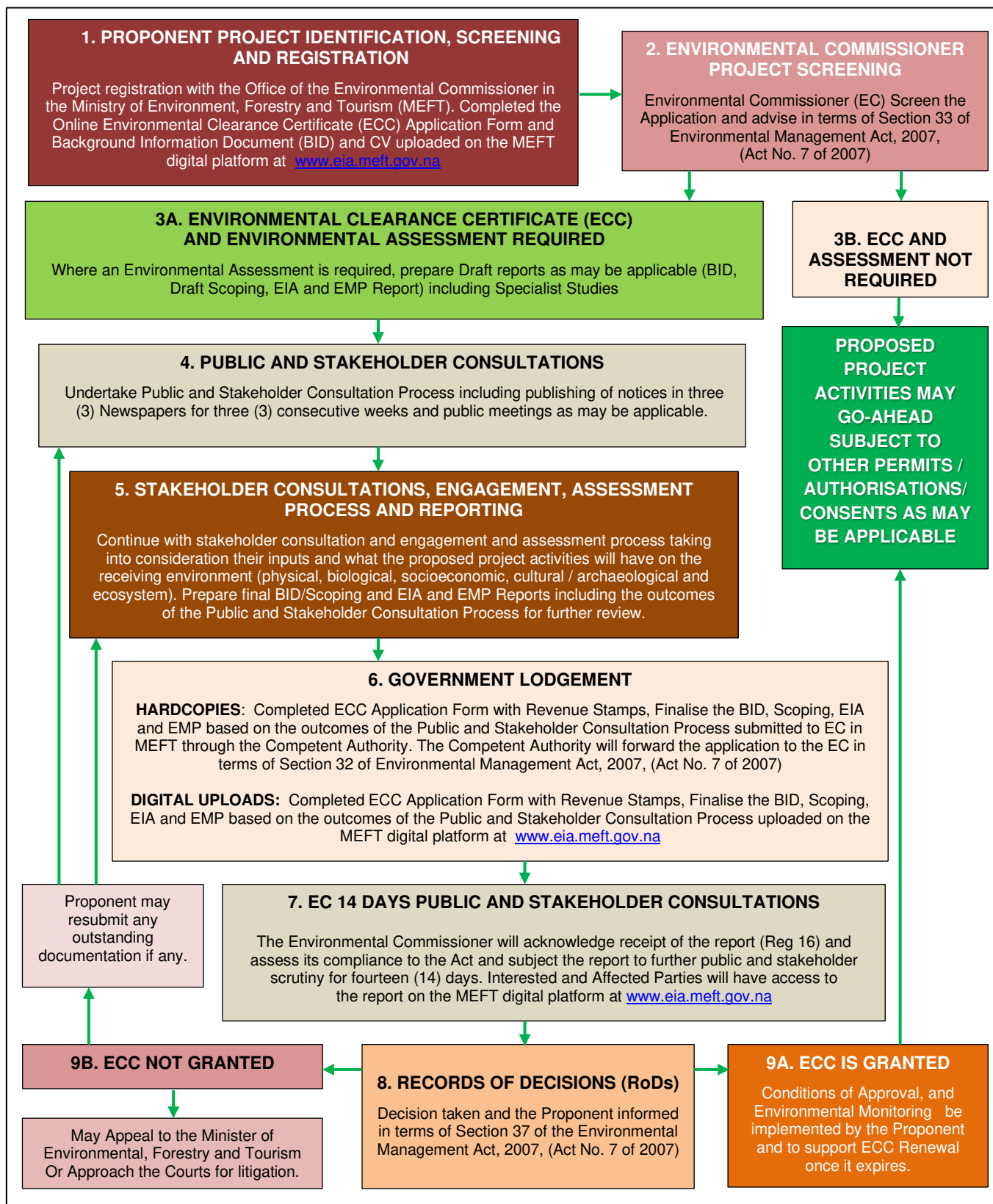


Figure 4.1: RBS Schematic presentation of Namibia's Environmental Assessment Procedure.

4.2.2 Assumptions and Limitations

The following assumptions and limitations underpin the approach adopted, overall outcomes and recommendations of the environmental assessment process:

- (i) The proposed activities as well as all the plans, maps, EPL area, line boundary / coordinates, and appropriate data sets received from the Proponent, project partners,

regulators, Competent Authorities, and specialist consultants are assumed to be current and valid at the time of conducting the studies and preparation of this report.

- (ii) In absence of any site-specific local mineral target/s within the EPL area, no field-based assessments will be undertaken and the desktop impact assessment outcomes, mitigation measures and recommendations provided in the EIA/ Scoping and EMP Reports shall be valid for the lifecycle of the proposed prospecting activities only. If a potential minerals target/s is / are identified, site-specific field-based environmental studies shall be conducted as part of the site-specific exploration process leading to prefeasibility and feasibility studies to support the application for a Mining License (ML) and ECC for mining operations.
- (iii) A precautionary approach has been adopted in instances where baseline information and impact assessment guidelines were insufficient or unavailable or site-specific project activities were not yet available, and.
- (iv) Mandatory timeframes as provided for in the EIA Regulations No. 30 of 2012 and the EMA, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) have been observed.

4.3 Impacts Assessment Process

4.3.1 Evaluation of Impacts

In assessing the likely impacts that the proposed project activities (proposed minerals exploration) will have on the physical, biological, socioeconomic, cultural / archaeological environments and ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-use or passive use, the proposed exploration activities have been considered as the key sources of both negative and positive impacts. In evaluating the degree of potential impacts, the following factors will be taken into consideration:

- (i) Impact Severity: The severity of an impact is a function of a range of considerations.
- (ii) Likelihood of Occurrence (Probability): How likely is the impact to occur?

In evaluating the severity of potential environmental impacts, the following factors must be taken into consideration:

- ❖ Receptor/ Resource characteristics: The nature, importance and sensitivity to change of the receptors / target or resources that could be affected.
- ❖ Impact Magnitude: The magnitude of the change that is induced.
- ❖ Impact Duration: The time period over which the impact is expected to last.
- ❖ Impact Extent: The geographical extent of the induced change, and.
- ❖ Regulations, Standards and Guidelines: The status of the impact in relation to regulations (e.g. discharge limits), standards (e.g. environmental quality criteria) and guidelines.

The overall impact severity has been categorised using a subjective scale as shown in Table 4.2 for magnitude, Table 4.3 for duration and Table 4.4 for extent.

Table 4.2: Scored on a scale from 0 to 5 for impact magnitude.

SCALE (-) or (+)	DESCRIPTION
0	No observable effect
1	Low effect
2	Tolerable effect
3	Medium high effect
4	High effect
5	Very high effect (devastation)

Table 4.3: Scored time period over which the impact is expected to last.

SCALE (-) or (+)	DESCRIPTION
T	Temporary
P	Permanent

Table 4.4: Scored geographical extent of the induced change.

SCALE (-) or (+)	DESCRIPTION
L	Limited impact on location
O	Impact of importance for municipality.
R	Impact of regional character
N	Impact of national character
M	Impact of cross-border character

4.3.2 Likelihood (Probability) of Occurrence

The likelihood (probability) of the pre-identified events occurring has been ascribed using a qualitative scale of probability categories (in increasing order of likelihood) as shown in Table 4.5. Likelihood is estimated on the basis of experience and/ or evidence that such an outcome has previously occurred. Impacts resulting from routine/planned events (normal operations) are classified under category (E).

Table 4.5: Summary of the qualitative scale of probability categories (in increasing order of likelihood).

SCALE (-) or (+)	DESCRIPTION
A	Extremely unlikely (e.g. never heard of in the industry)
B	Unlikely (e.g. heard of in the industry but considered unlikely)
C	Low likelihood (egg such incidents/impacts have occurred but are uncommon)
D	Medium likelihood (e.g. such incidents/impacts occur several times per year within the industry)
E	High likelihood (e.g. such incidents/impacts occurs several times per year at each location where such works are undertaken)

4.3.3 Proposed Project Activities as Sources of Impacts

The results of the impacts assessment and evaluation will adopt a matrix framework like the Leopold matrix. Assessment results of the magnitude, duration, extent, and probability of the potential impacts due to the proposed project activities interacting with the receiving environment will be presented in form of a matrix table as shown in Tables 4.6 – 4.9.

The overall severity of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project activities on the receiving environment will assess the impact magnitude (Table 4.6), duration (Table 4.7), extent (Table 3.8) and probability of occurrence (Table 4.9) with respect to the proposed activities and the use of step progression approach in advancing exploration.

The step progressional approach will allow the Proponent to assess the results of exploration success and the implementation of the next stage of exploration will be subject to the positive outcomes of previous activities as graded (Tables 4.6 – 4.9).

It is important to note that the assessment of the likely impacts as shown in Tables 4.5 – 4.8, will be considered without the implementation of mitigation measures.

The need for implementation of the appropriate mitigation measures as presented in EMP report will be based on the results of the significant impact assessment as detailed in Table 4.10.

Table 4.6: Example results presentation framework of the sensitivity assessment of the receptors (Physical, Socioeconomic and Biological environments) with respect to the proposed exploration / prospecting activities.

RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY		PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT						
SENSITIVITY RATING		CRITERIA															
1	Negligible	The receptor or resource is resistant to change or is of little environmental value.															
2	Low	The receptor or resource is tolerant of change without detriment to its character, is of low environmental or social value, or is of local importance.															
3	Medium	The receptor or resource has low capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character, is of high environmental or social value, or is of national importance															
4	High	The receptor or resource has moderate capacity to absorb change without significantly altering its present character, has some environmental or social value, or is of district/regional importance.															
5	Very High	The receptor or resource has little or no capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character, is of very high environmental or social value, or is of international importance.															
		Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional, and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources
1. Initial Desktop Exploration Activities	(i)	General evaluation of satellite, topographic, land tenure, accessibility, supporting infrastructures and socioeconomic environment data															
	(ii)	Purchase and analysis of existing Government high resolution magnetics and radiometric geophysical data															
	(iii)	Purchase and analysis of existing Government aerial hyperspectral															
	(iv)	Data interpretation and delineating of potential targets for future reconnaissance regional field-based activities for delineated targets															
2. Regional Reconnaissance Field-Based Activities	(i)	Regional geological, geochemical, topographical and remote sensing mapping and data analysis															
	(ii)	Regional geochemical sampling aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken															
	(iii)	Regional geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken															
	(iv)	Limited field-based support and logistical activities including exploration camp site lasting between one (1) to two (2) days															
	(v)	Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets for future detailed site-specific exploration if the results are positive and supports further exploration of the delineated targets															

Table 4.6 Cont.

RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY			PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT					
SENSITIVITY RATING		CRITERIA	Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources
1	Negligible	The receptor or resource is resistant to change or is of little environmental value.																
2	Low	The receptor or resource is tolerant of change without detriment to its character, is of low environmental or social value, or is of local importance.																
3	Medium	The receptor or resource has low capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character, is of high environmental or social value, or is of national importance																
4	High	The receptor or resource has moderate capacity to absorb change without significantly altering its present character, has some environmental or social value, or is of district/regional importance.																
5	Very High	The receptor or resource has little or no capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character, is of very high environmental or social value, or is of international importance.																
3. Initial Local Field-Based Activities	(i)	Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during regional reconnaissance field activities																
	(ii)	Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken																
	(iii)	Ground geophysical survey (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above)																
	(iv)	Possible Trenching (Subject to the outcomes of i - iii above)																
	(v)	Field-based support and logistical activities will be very limited focus on a site-specific area for a very short time (maximum five (5) days)																
	(vi)	Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets																
4. Detailed Local Field-Based Activities	(i)	Access preparation and related logistics to support activities																
	(ii)	Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during the initial field-based activities																
	(iii)	Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken																
	(iv)	Ground geophysical survey, trenching, drilling and sampling (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above).																
5. Prefeasibility and Feasibility Studies	(i)	Detailed site-specific field-based support and logistical activities, surveys, detailed geological mapping																
	(ii)	Detailed drilling and bulk sampling and testing for ore reserve calculations																
	(iii)	Geotechnical studies for mine design																
	(iv)	Mine planning and designs including all supporting infrastructures (water, energy and access) and test mining activities																
	(v)	EIA and EMP to support the ECC for mining operations																
	(vi)	Preparation of feasibility report and application for Mining License																

Table 4.7: Example results presentation framework of the scored time (duration) over which the impact is expected to last.

RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY		PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT												
		Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SCALE</th> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>T</td> <td>Temporary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>Permanent</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		SCALE	DESCRIPTION	T	Temporary	P	Permanent																
SCALE	DESCRIPTION																						
T	Temporary																						
P	Permanent																						
1. Initial Desktop Exploration Activities	(i) General evaluation of satellite, topographic, land tenure, accessibility, supporting infrastructures and socioeconomic environment data																						
	(ii) Purchase and analysis of existing Government high resolution magnetic and radiometric geophysical data																						
	(iii) Purchase and analysis of existing Government aerial hyperspectral																						
	(iv) Data interpretation and delineating of potential targets for future reconnaissance regional field-based activities for delineated targets																						
2. Regional Reconnaissance Field-Based Activities	(i) Regional geological, geochemical, topographical and remote sensing mapping and data analysis																						
	(ii) Regional geochemical sampling aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken																						
	(iii) Regional geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken																						
	(iv) Limited field-based support and logistical activities including exploration camp site lasting between one (1) to two (2) days																						
	(v) Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets for future detailed site-specific exploration if the results are positive and supports further exploration of the delineated targets																						

Table 4.7: Cont.

DURATION OF IMPACT		PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT					
		Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation
SCALE		DESCRIPTION														
T		Temporary														
P		Permanent														
3. Initial Local Field-Based Activities	(i)	Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during regional reconnaissance field activities														
	(ii)	Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken														
	(iii)	Ground geophysical survey (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above)														
	(iv)	Possible Trenching (Subject to the outcomes of i - iii above)														
	(v)	Field-based support and logistical activities will be very limited focus on a site-specific area for a very short time (maximum five (5) days)														
	(vi)	Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets														
4. Detailed Local Field-Based Activities	(i)	Access preparation and related logistics to support activities														
	(ii)	Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during the initial field-based activities														
	(iii)	Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken														
	(iv)	Ground geophysical survey, trenching, drilling and sampling (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above).														
5. Prefeasibility and Feasibility Studies	(i)	Detailed site-specific field-based support and logistical activities, surveys, detailed geological mapping														
	(ii)	Detailed drilling and bulk sampling and testing for ore reserve calculations														
	(iii)	Geotechnical studies for mine design														
	(iv)	Mine planning and designs including all supporting infrastructures (water, energy and access) and test mining activities														
	(v)	EIA and EMP to support the ECC for mining operations														
	(vi)	Preparation of feasibility report and application for Mining License														

Table 4.8: Example results presentation framework of the scored geographical extent of the induced change.

GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT OF IMPACT		PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT																		
		Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SCALE</th> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>limited impact on location</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O</td> <td>impact of importance for municipality</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R</td> <td>impact of regional character</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>impact of national character</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M</td> <td>impact of cross-border character</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		SCALE	DESCRIPTION	L	limited impact on location	O	impact of importance for municipality	R	impact of regional character	N	impact of national character	M	impact of cross-border character																
SCALE	DESCRIPTION																												
L	limited impact on location																												
O	impact of importance for municipality																												
R	impact of regional character																												
N	impact of national character																												
M	impact of cross-border character																												
1. Initial Desktop Exploration Activities	(i) General evaluation of satellite, topographic, land tenure, accessibility, supporting infrastructures and socioeconomic environment data																												
	(ii) Purchase and analysis of existing Government high resolution magnetic and radiometric geophysical data																												
	(iii) Purchase and analysis of existing Government aerial hyperspectral																												
	(iv) Data interpretation and delineating of potential targets for future reconnaissance regional field-based activities for delineated targets																												
2. Regional Reconnaissance Field-Based Activities	(i) Regional geological, geochemical, topographical and remote sensing mapping and data analysis																												
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	(iii) Regional geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken																												
	(iv) Limited field-based support and logistical activities including exploration camp site lasting between one (1) to two (2) days																												
	(v) Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets for future detailed site-specific exploration if the results are positive and supports further exploration of the delineated targets																												

Table 4.8: *Conti.*

GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT OF IMPACT		PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT									
		Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources				
SCALE		DESCRIPTION																			
L		limited impact on location																			
O		impact of importance for municipality																			
R		impact of regional character																			
N		impact of national character																			
M		impact of cross-border character																			
3. Initial Local Field-Based Activities	(i)	Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during regional reconnaissance field activities																			
	(ii)	Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken																			
	(iii)	Ground geophysical survey (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above)																			
	(iv)	Possible Trenching (Subject to the outcomes of i - iii above)																			
	(v)	Field-based support and logistical activities will be very limited focus on a site-specific area for a very short time (maximum five (5) days)																			
	(vi)	Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets																			
4. Detailed Local Field-Based Activities	(i)	Access preparation and related logistics to support activities																			
	(ii)	Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during the initial field-based activities																			
	(iii)	Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken																			
	(iv)	Ground geophysical survey, trenching, drilling and sampling (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above).																			
5. Prefeasibility and Feasibility Studies	(i)	Detailed site-specific field-based support and logistical activities, surveys, detailed geological mapping																			
	(ii)	Detailed drilling and bulk sampling and testing for ore reserve calculations																			
	(iii)	Geotechnical studies for mine design																			
	(iv)	Mine planning and designs including all supporting infrastructures (water, energy and access) and test mining activities																			
	(v)	EIA and EMP to support the ECC for mining operations																			
	(vi)	Preparation of feasibility report and application for Mining License																			

Table 4.9: Example results presentation framework of the qualitative scale of probability occurrence.

IMPACT PROBABILITY OCCURRENCE		PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT								
SCALE		DESCRIPTION		Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources
A		Extremely unlikely (e.g. never heard of in the industry)																	
B		Unlikely (e.g. heard of in the industry but considered unlikely)																	
C		Low likelihood (egg such incidents/impacts have occurred but are uncommon)																	
D		Medium likelihood (e.g. such incidents/impacts occur several times per year within the industry)																	
E		High likelihood (e.g. such incidents/impacts occurs several times per year at each location where such works are undertaken)																	
1. Initial Desktop Exploration Activities	(i)	General evaluation of satellite, topographic, land tenure, accessibility, supporting infrastructures and socioeconomic environment data																	
	(ii)	Purchase and analysis of existing Government high resolution magnetic and radiometric geophysical data																	
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	(iv)	Data interpretation and delineating of potential targets for future reconnaissance regional field-based activities for delineated targets																	
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	(iv)	Limited field-based support and logistical activities including exploration camp site lasting between one (1) to two (2) days																	
	(v)	Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets for future detailed site-specific exploration if the results are positive and supports further exploration of the delineated targets																	

Table 4.9: Cont.

IMPACT PROBABILITY OCCURRENCE		PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT						
SCALE	DESCRIPTION	Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources
A	Extremely unlikely (e.g. never heard of in the industry)																
B	Unlikely (e.g. heard of in the industry but considered unlikely)																
C	Low likelihood (egg such incidents/impacts have occurred but are uncommon)																
D	Medium likelihood (e.g. such incidents/impacts occur several times per year within the industry)																
E	High likelihood (e.g. such incidents/impacts occurs several times per year at each location where such works are undertaken)																
3. Initial Local Field-Based Activities	(i) Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during regional reconnaissance field activities																
	(ii) Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken																
	(iii) Ground geophysical survey (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above)																
	(iv) Possible Trenching (Subject to the outcomes of i - iii above)																
	(v) Field-based support and logistical activities will be very limited focus on a site-specific area for a very short time (maximum five (5) days)																
	(vi) Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets																
4. Detailed Local Field-Based Activities	(i) Access preparation and related logistics to support activities																
	(ii) Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during the initial field-based activities																
	(iii) Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken																
	(iv) Ground geophysical survey, trenching, drilling and sampling (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above).																
5. Prefeasibility and Feasibility Studies	(i) Detailed site-specific field-based support and logistical activities, surveys, detailed geological mapping																
	(ii) Detailed drilling and bulk sampling and testing for ore reserve calculations																
	(iii) Geotechnical studies for mine design																
	(iv) Mine planning and designs including all supporting infrastructures (water, energy and access) and test mining activities																
	(v) EIA and EMP to support the ECC for mining operations																
	(vi) Preparation of feasibility report and application for Mining License																

4.3.4 Assessment of the Overall Significant Impacts

4.2.4.1 Overview

The determination of the significance of the negative impacts of the sources shall be undertaken based on the environmental baseline results and the intensity of the likely negative impact posed by the proposed activities. The assessment will be dependent upon the degree to which the proposed activities are likely to result in unwanted consequences on the receptor covering the natural environment such as the physical, biological, socioeconomic, cultural, and archaeological environments. Overall, the assessment of significant impacts will focus on the ecosystem-based approach that considers potential impacts to the ecosystem as part of the receiving environment.

4.3.4.2 Summary of the Sources of Impacts

The main key sources of impacts that will be used to determine significant impact posed by the proposed exploration activities comprises all the activities associated with field-based activities such as trenching and drilling as well as the supporting campsite in the absence of any suitable accommodation or existing camping facility nearby. Each of the main sources of impacts will be evaluated against the receiving environment (receptor / pathways) (Table 4.10).

4.3.4.3 Determination of the Overall Likely Significant Impacts

To determine the overall significant impact of individual sources associated with the proposed exploration activities, an impact identification and assessment process will be undertaken as part of the EIA Process. The results of the overall likely significant impacts and key issues associated with the proposed activities / sources, exploration and supporting activities will be presented in form of matrix table as shown in Table 4.10.

The impact identification and assessment processes will focus on the receiving environment (Physical, Biological and Socioeconomic) interaction approach with respect to the proposed project activities (exploration activities), the pathways and the likely targets or receptor that may be negatively impacted. In this process, components of the project activities that are likely to impact the receiving environment will be broken down into individual exploration activities (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10: Example results presentation framework of significant matrix impact assessment for the proposed exploration activities.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT						PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT																					
IMPACT SEVERITY [Magnitude, Duration, Extent, Probability]	RECEPTOR CHARACTERISTICS (SENSITIVITY)					Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional, and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources															
	Very High (5)	High(4)	Medium (3)	Low (2)	Negligible (1)																															
Very High (5)	Major [5/5]	Major [4/5]	Moderate [3/5]	Moderate [2 /5]	Minor 1/5																															
High (4)	Major [5/4]	Major [4/4]	Moderate [3/4]	Moderate [2/4]	Minor[1/4]																															
Medium (3)	Major [5/3]	Moderate[4/3]	Moderate[3/3]	Minor[2/3]	None[1/3]																															
Low (2)	Moderate [5/2]	Moderate[4/2]	Minor[3/2]	None[2/2]	None[1/2]																															
Negligible (1)	Minor [5/1]	Minor [4/1]	None [3/1]	None [2/1]	None [1/1]																															
1. Initial Desktop Exploration Activities	(i) General evaluation of satellite, topographic, land tenure, accessibility, supporting infrastructures and socioeconomic environment data																																			
	(ii) Purchase and analysis of existing Government high resolution magnetic and radiometric geophysical data																																			
	(iii) Purchase and analysis of existing Government aerial hyperspectral																																			
	(iv) Data interpretation and delineating of potential targets for future reconnaissance regional field-based activities for delineated targets																																			
2. Regional Reconnaissance Field-Based Activities	(i) Regional geological, geochemical, topographical and remote sensing mapping and data analysis																																			
	(ii) Regional geochemical sampling aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken																																			
	(iii) Regional geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the initial exploration and regional geological, topographical and remote sensing mapping and analysis undertaken																																			
	(iv) Limited field-based support and logistical activities including exploration camp site lasting between one (1) to two (2) days																																			
	(v) Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets for future detailed site-specific exploration if the results are positive and supports further exploration of the delineated targets																																			

Table 4.10: Cont.

SENSITIVITY						PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT				SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT																					
IMPACT SEVERITY [Magnitude, Duration, Extent, Probability]	RECEPTOR CHARACTERISTICS (SENSITIVITY)					Water Quality	Physical infrastructure and Resources	Air Quality, Noise and Dust	Landscape Topography	Soil Quality	Climate Change Influences	Habitat	Protected Areas	Flora	Fauna	Ecosystem functions, services, use values and non-Use or passive use	Local, regional and national socioeconomic settings	Commercial Agriculture	Community Protected Areas	Tourism and Recreation	Cultural, Biological and Archaeological Resources															
	Very High (5)	High(4)	Medium (3)	Low (2)	Negligible (1)																															
Very High (5)	Major [5/5]	Major [4/5]	Moderate [3/5]	Moderate [2 /5]	Minor 1/5																															
High (4)	Major [5/4]	Major [4/4]	Moderate [3/4]	Moderate [2/4]	Minor[1/4]																															
Medium (3)	Major [5/3]	Moderate[4/3]	Moderate[3/3]	Minor[2/3]	None[1/3]																															
Low (2)	Moderate [5/2]	Moderate[4/2]	Minor[3/2]	None[2/2]	None[1/2]																															
Negligible (1)	Minor [5/1]	Minor [4/1]	None [3/1]	None [2/1]	None [1/1]																															
3. Initial Local Field-Based Activities	(i) Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during regional reconnaissance field activities																																			
	(ii) Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken																																			
	(iii) Ground geophysical survey (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above)																																			
	(iv) Possible Trenching (Subject to the outcomes of i - iii above)																																			
	(v) Field-based support and logistical activities will be very limited focus on a site-specific area for a very short time (maximum five (5) days)																																			
	(vi) Laboratory analysis of the samples collected and interpretation of the results and delineating of potential targets																																			
4. Detailed Local Field-Based Activities	(i) Access preparation and related logistics to support activities																																			
	(ii) Local geochemical sampling aimed at verifying the prospectivity of the target/s delineated during the initial field-based activities																																			
	(iii) Local geological mapping aimed at identifying possible targeted based on the results of the regional geological and analysis undertaken																																			
	(iv) Ground geophysical survey, trenching, drilling and sampling (Subject to the positive outcomes of i and ii above).																																			
5. Prefeasibility and Feasibility Studies	(i) Detailed site-specific field-based support and logistical activities, surveys, detailed geological mapping																																			
	(ii) Detailed drilling and bulk sampling and testing for ore reserve calculations																																			
	(iii) Geotechnical studies for mine design																																			
	(iv) Mine planning and designs including all supporting infrastructures (water, energy and access) and test mining activities																																			
	(v) EIA and EMP to support the ECC for mining operations																																			
	(vi) Preparation of feasibility report and application for Mining License																																			

4.4 Specific Mitigation Measures

Based on the key issues identified in Table 4.1, the following is the outlined of the indicative specific mitigations that must be prepared for the proposed exploration programme activities and for the **field-based exploration activities**:

1. Protect the pans habitats through effective project planning and implementation.
2. Implementation of the EMP.
3. Public and stakeholders relations.
4. Measures to enhance positive socioeconomic impacts.
5. Environmental awareness briefing and training.
6. Erection of supporting exploration infrastructure.
7. Use of existing access roads, tracks, and general vehicle movements.
8. Mitigation measures for preventing flora destruction.
9. Mitigation measures for preventing faunal destruction.
10. Mitigation measures to be implemented with respect to the exploration camps and exploration sites.
11. Mitigation measures for surface and groundwater protection as well as general water usage.
12. Mitigation measures to minimise negative socioeconomic impacts.
13. Mitigation measures to minimise health and safety impacts.
14. Mitigation measures to minimise visual impacts.
15. Mitigation measures to minimise vibration, noise, and air quality.
16. Mitigation measures for waste (solid and liquid) management.
17. Rehabilitation plan, and.
18. Environmental data collection.

4.5 Structure of the EIA/ Scoping and EMP Reports

The following is the indicative summary structure outlines of the EIA and EMP reports to be prepared by the EAP in support of the application for ECC with respect to the proposed minerals exploration activities in the EPL 8947:

(i) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT:

- ❖ **Section 1: Background** covering the proposed project location with available infrastructure and services;
- ❖ **Section 2: Project Description** covering the summary of the proposed project minerals exploration and possible mining activities;

- ❖ **Section 3: Regulatory Framework** covering the proposed minerals exploration and possible mining activities with respect to relevant legislation, regulations and permitting requirements;
- ❖ **Section 4: Receiving Environment** covering physical, biological and socioeconomic environments of the proposed project area;
- ❖ **Section 5: Impact Assessment** covering the likely positive and negative impacts the proposed project activities are likely to have on the receiving environment;
- ❖ **Section 6: Conclusions and Recommendations-** Summary of the findings and way forward.

(ii) **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP) REPORT:**

- ❖ **Section 1: Background** covering the proposed project location with available infrastructure, regulations, project motivation, summary of the environmental assessment and assessment assumptions and limitations;
- ❖ **Section 2: Implementation of the EMP** covering roles and responsibilities of the proponent, HSE team and Contractors;
- ❖ **Section 3: Specific Mitigation Measures** describing the detailed mitigation measures with respect to the identified likely impacts, and;
- ❖ **Section 4: Rehabilitation and Monitoring** covering rehabilitation options and performance monitoring and reporting.

**REGISTER AND SUBMIT WRITTEN
OBJECTIONS / COMMENTS / INPUTS BY EMAIL TO:
frontdesk@rbs.com.na**

**1. Deadline for Submission of Written Comments /
Objections/ Inputs: **FRIDAY, 27th OCTOBER 2023****

**2. Submission of the Application for Environmental
Clearance Certificate (ECC) and the Final
Assessment and EMP Reports:
NOVEMBER 2023**

For more Information, Please Contact:
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Permitting Advisor/Consultant)
Email: frontdesk@rbs.com.na

BID END