

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT



CONSTRUCTION OF ONGEAMA TJOVIKE LODGE WITHIN DAURES CONSTITUENCY, ERONGO REGION

APP-002588

MAY 2021

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SECTION 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Mr. Nico Kaoti (the Proponent and owner of Ongeama Tjovike Lodge & Tourism cc) proposes to construct a lodge and associated tourism facility in Daures Constituency, Erongo Region. The Proponent has appointed Ms. Grace Shihepo, an Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake the requisite Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for construction of the lodge and associated tourism facility.

1.2 The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation

The Environmental Management Act (Act No. 7 of 2007, also known as the EMA) and EIA Regulations (Government Notice No: 30, 2012), classifies activities (known as listed activities) that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). This implies that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be undertaken and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) should be developed and should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) as part of the application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

An Environmental Impact Scoping Assessment is a systematic process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the potential environmental and social effects that may arise from activities that may arise from the proposed project.

The backbone of the EIA report entails identification of impacts (whether real or perceived) and provides recommendations on suitable mitigation measures to ensure compliance with the principles of environmental management and highlight risks and measures to ensure an environmentally friendly development. The purpose of this Environmental Scoping Report is therefore to provide a description of the proposed activity and identifies mitigation measures to be implemented.

1.3 LISTED ACTIVITIES

In terms of the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), land use and transformation of land is a listed activity that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate hence the need for an EIA Scoping Exercise.

Table 1: Identified list of activities in the EIA regulation concerning the proposed project.

Activity	Description of the Activity	Operation of the Activity
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Activity 2. Waste Management, Treatment, Handling and Disposal Activities	The construction of facilities for waste sites, treatment of waste and disposal of waste	Accommodation units to have a septic tank for the collection of sewage
Activity 4 Forestry Activities	The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorization in terms of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.	Some vegetation clearance may be required during construction. This is however unlikely to reach the thresholds as set out in the Forest Act.
Activity 6 Tourism Development	The construction of resorts, lodges, hotels or other tourism and hospitality facilities.	Construction of a lodge and other tourism associated facilities
Activity 8 Water resources development	8.1 abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes	A borehole will need to be drilled to enable the lodge to have access to water. The process to obtain the permit from the department of water affairs can be undertaken concurrently.

Given the above listed activities, the EIA process shall be undertaken to assess and determine the possible environmental, social and economic impacts that may arise from this project.

1.4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

Ms. Grace Shihepo is a qualified Environmentalist specializing in environmental research and socio-economic development projects. Her experience in the environmental sciences arena spans over 15 years which ranges from developing and implementing regulatory frameworks and enabling strategies, executing project appraisals, to monitoring and implementation of developmental projects throughout South Africa and Namibia.

Ms. Shihepo's educational qualifications include a Master of Science specializing in Environmental Planning and Management obtained from UNESCO Institute of Hydraulic Engineering in the Netherlands; a Bachelor of Technology and National Diploma in Natural Resources Management as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration.

1.5 SCOPING TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference (TORs) for this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is in accordance with the Environmental Management Act 2007 and its Regulation Section 9 (a-b). It considers other relevant local, national and international laws. These guidelines are aimed to focus on issues of greater environmental concerns and to develop mitigation measures for effective environmental management. Eventually, this EIA is aimed at obtaining the Environmental Clearance Certificate for the project and to ensure environmental sustainability. The scoping assessment is undertaken to establish the environmental and socio-economic status of the receiving environment. The assessment entailed the following:

- Description of the proposed development;
- Description of the receiving environment
- Identification of environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed development
- Documentation of concerns raised by the stakeholders in the Comments and Responses Report
- Description of the methodology used to assess the project impacts; and
- Ensuring that key aspects pertaining to the EIA are identified and raised early on by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), the Competent Authority and I&AP's.

SECTION 2

2.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mr. Nico Kaoti intends to construct and operate a lodge within Ongeama Tjovike village. This village is located with Daures Constituency of Erongo Region and it falls within the jurisdiction of Zeraua Traditional Authority. As part of the authorization process, the proponent is simultaneously applying for a leasehold from the Ministry of Land Reform to enable the provision of the lode facility (i.e. accommodation and hospitality services). The proponent obtained consent from the Zeraua Traditional Authority with no objection to the construction and operation of the proposed lodge. The lodge will consist of a reception, restaurant and dining hall, sleeping chalets, a swimming pool and staff houses. Scenic and game drives will also be offered to the tourists as the surrounding area is known to be frequented by elephants.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Environmental Management Act (EMA) and EIA regulations stipulates that alternatives should be considered during the project design. This is done to determine if an alternative site (different locality) or alternative project (different project) would yield better benefits for the affected environment as well as socio-economic benefits for the community in the area.

The identified site where the proposed lodge is to be established was found to be the most suitable for the planned tourism activities. The site was highly recommended due to its landscape that overlooks a valley that is frequented by elephants and other wildlife. The area is also in remote area, which will present a natural and traditional experience to the tourists. The proposed tourism development (Lodge and campsite) is an integral part and forms the building blocks for socio-economic (employment creation, improved household income, food security and improved livelihoods) within the landscape. The development of the lodge will significantly enhance national and regional benefits to the tourism industry. Subsequently, in combination with other development, these type of projects are the pillars towards the realization of national development goals.

2.3 PROJECT LOCATION

Ongeama Tjovike Village is located on the boundaries of Erongo and Kunene regions and is approximately 60 km southeast of Khorixas. The village is however within Daures Constituency of Erongo Region; the area is accessible via C39 from Khorixas towards Vingerklip or via C36 from Omaruru through Omatjete (see map overleaf). The GPS coordinates are: S 20°37'48.37" E 015°18'13.59".



Figure 1: Location of the proposed lodge

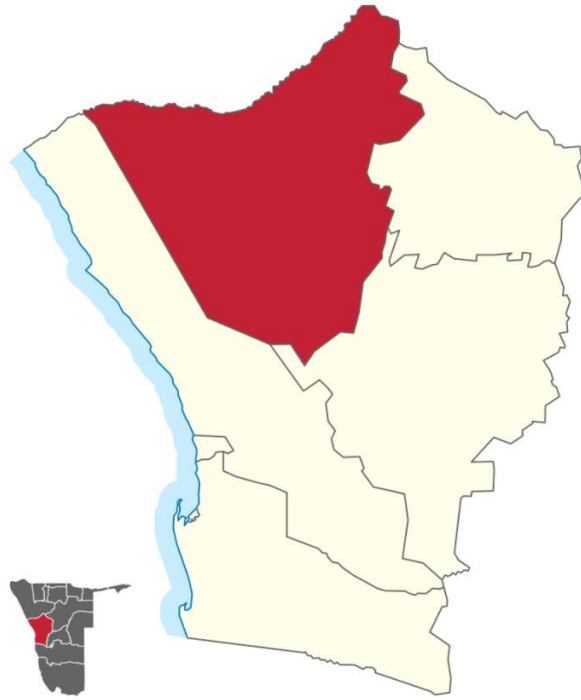


Figure 2: Daures Constituency (red) in Erongo Region (yellow)

2.4 PROJECT RATIONALE

The tourism industry offers a unique lodging environment, which caters for an ever-increasing group of travellers. Furthermore, tourism remains one of the key sectors that are extremely important to the Namibian economy, particularly with employment creation and improved income. Bush lodges and guesthouses create a homely climate, where guests become temporary members of a larger family and it becomes easy to settle.

Ongeama Tjovike & Tourism cc intends to embark on developing better service delivery techniques in accordance with international standards and as per requirements of the Namibia Tourism Board. The Proponent aims to provide a conducive working environment with lucrative wages to local members of the community and will in turn provide world-class affordable leisure and accommodation facilities to the visitors. The proposed lodge will further create a better future for the surrounding community members and it will benefit many individuals during construction and operation phases of the lodge. The lodge will also contribute towards poverty alleviation strategies, uplift living standards of local people and address objectives of the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

According to the 5th National Development Plan – NDP5 (NPC, 2017), tourism has been identified as one of the key sectors with high potential for socio-economic growth and national development at large. Construction of the proposed lodge will contribute to tourism growth, employment creation, improved household income and contributes towards attainment of national development goals.

2.5 LAND USE / ZONATION

The village is used for residential purposes albeit sparsely inhabited. The main land use in the area is cattle and small stock farming. The site where the lodge is to be established is seldom used for cattle grazing because it is on a steeping slope. There is no infrastructure on the proposed site.

There will be a need to clear some bush in areas where the bungalows and associated facilities will be constructed. Clearance of bush will however be kept to the bare minimum and this will be in accordance with the Forest Act.

2.6 PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE & ACTIVITIES

The ultimate objective is to create a “home away from home” environment for the visitors. Tourists have always been attracted to the Ugab River because of the beautiful landscape and prevalence of elephants as well as the rock paintings in the surrounding mountains. Guided scenic game drives, quad biking, camping, hiking and nature walks will be offered to the lodge visitors. The lodge facilities will include the following;

- Lodge with approximately 35 chalets of various sizes
- Campsite and ample parking area
- Conferencing and restaurant
- Reception and administration building
- Ablution and sewerage facilities (grey water will be treated through an in-house wastewater treatment plant prior to discharge)
- Swimming pool and staff quarters
- Internal roads, and
- A solar park to supply electricity to the facility.

The buildings will be designed and constructed in a camouflaged manner to blend in with the surrounding environment. Thatching grass, rocks and wood will be the main materials to be used. Construction of the lodge and associated facilities is expected to be undertaken within six months. There will be minimal earthworks other than for the new underground drainage lines and access to wastewater tanks.

The lodge shall operate all year round, and is expected to have peak periods in the months of March, July and October. Approximately thirty-three (33) employees will be hired to run the facility.

SECTION 3

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter outlines the regulatory frameworks applicable to the proposed project.

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Environmental Management Act (also referred to as the EMA), stipulates that for each developmental project, which is listed under the EIA regulations, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted. The aim of the EIA is to identify, assess and ascertain potential environmental impacts that may arise from the proposed activity. Table 3 provides an overview of applicable policies, plans and strategies and Table 4 provides a list of applicable national legislation.

Table 3: Policies, Plans and Strategies

Policy / Plan	Summary	Applicability to the Proposed Project
5th National Development Plan (NDP) and Vision 2030	Namibia's overall long-term development ambitions are provided in the National Vision 2030, which is implemented by five yearly national development plans (NDP's).	Tourism is a key area for growth and thus the proposed project supports the goals for this sector's growth. The proposed project is a development that forms part of the bigger picture of achieving economic progression, social transformation and environmental sustainability.
National Policy on Tourism for Namibia	Provides a framework for the mobilization of tourism resources to realize long term national goals as defined in Vision 2030 and the more specific targets of the NDP.	The proposed project aligns with the policy, in particular, the development provides competitive tourism amenities and services, creating a competitive business environment that is market driven.
National Tourism Investment Profile and Promotion Strategy 2016 - 2026	Sets out a strategy with the aim of creating a favorable and conducive regulatory environment for tourism investment with the objective of lowering transaction costs to allow the private sector to invest and grow the tourism sector through a superior tourism superstructure.	The Strategy has identified nine areas that shall be a key focus to support the Strategy. Wildlife tourism, trophy hunting tourism and community-based tourism are three of these subsectors.

Table 4: National Statutes

National Statutes	Summary	Applicability to the Proposed Project
Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) and associated regulations, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2007 (No. 30 of 2011)	The Act aims to promote sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment. It sets the principles of environmental management as well as the functions and powers of the Minister.	The EIA process and associated EMP report have been undertaken in line with the requirements under the Act and associated regulations.
Water Act, 1956	This rather outdated Act that remains in force, provides for the control, conservation and use of water for domestic, agricultural, urban and industrial purposes; to make provision for the control, in certain respects, of the use of sea water for certain purposes; and for the control of certain activities on or in water in certain areas. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) Department of Water Affairs is responsible for administration of the Water Act.	Water pollution is an offence as per Section 23 of the Water Act. The Act stipulates obligations in Part 13 of general provisions relating to water pollution and prohibits the discharge of wastewater, effluent or waste without license and sets forth specific requirements for such license. The EMP sets out measures to avoid polluting the environment.
Water Resources Management Act, 2013 (No. 11 of 2013)	Whilst enacted it has not yet come into operation, and needs approval from the Government. This Act provides a framework for managing water resources based on the principles of integrated water resource management. It provides for the management, protection, development, use and conservation of water resource, and for the regulation and monitoring of water services and for incidental matters	The Act sets out obligations in order to avoid water pollution Section 44 stipulates the requirements for a licence to be held for the abstraction and use of water. A borehole will be developed for water provision to the lodge. The application will be lodged with the Department of Water Affairs. Permits shall be obtained by the proponent.
Soil Conservation, 1969 (Act 76 of 1969) and the Soil Conservation Amendment Act (Act 38 of 1971)	Makes provision for the prevention and control of soil erosion and the protection, improvement and the conservation, improvement and manner of use of the soil and vegetation.	Through vegetation removal there may be the risk of affecting soil quality. Measures shall be taken to avoid this which are set out in the EMP.
Forest Act 12 of 2001 Forest Act Regulations 2015	To provide for the protection of the environment and the control and management of forest. The Act and Regulations have the following stipulations that may be relevant to the proposed project:	There shall be some vegetation removal as part of the proposed project. The total area of the development site is approximately 50 hectares and it is unlikely that an area exceeding 10 hectares shall be cleared. It is therefore unlikely

National Statutes	Summary	Applicability to the Proposed Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval from the Director may be required for the clearance of vegetation on more than 15 hectares (Section 23, subsection 1 (b)). 	that a permit for vegetation clearance will be required.
National Heritage Act, No. 27 of 2004.	The Act provides provision of the protection and conservation of places and objects with heritage significance.	There is potential for heritage objects to be found on the development site, therefore the stipulations in the Act have been taken into consideration and are incorporated into the EMP.

3.2 Water abstraction and wastewater discharge Permits

The abstraction and discharge permit will be applied for at the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry for;

- The abstraction of water from a borehole (new borehole to be drilled),
- Operations of the waste water treatment plant and the discharge of waste water as per the Water Resources Management Act, 2013 (No. 11 of 2013).

SECTION 4

4.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

An understanding of the environmental and social context and sensitivity within which the proposed project activities are being located is important to understanding the potential impacts. This chapter provides a general overview of the current baseline conditions associated with the proposed lodge. A site visit was undertaken to the proposed area to evaluate the status of the environment and socio-economic activities.

4.2 Surrounding Environment

Daures Constituency encompasses Namibia's highest mountain peaks. Mean annual rainfall varies between 75mm and 125mm but with a large variation in the amount and distribution of rainfall. Daily temperature is less extreme than the Namib Desert, but the thermal environment may be more challenging due to prolonged high temperatures from October to January in excess of 40°C during the day and more than 20°C at night. The general surrounding is dissected by numerous small drainage systems, all with shallow soils.

Daures Constituency has a population of approximately 12000 of which the majority depend on communal subsistence farming for their livelihood. Population density in the Daures constituency is only 0.6 persons per km², which is one of the lowest for an inhabited area in the world, with only 6,932 adult residents in 2011. The settlement pattern in this constituency is sparsely populated and the distances between farms are vast. These demographic statistics illustrate the relative importance of livestock for food security in an area with very limited agricultural potential. The many specimens of Fauna and Flora, the Brandberg mountain and other beautiful scenery like the desert elephants along Ugab river makes this constituency very attractive for tourists and many opportunities still exist in the hospitality industry to cater for them. Local inhabitants capitalize on this tourism opportunity to compliment the income lost during times of drought.

4.3 Vegetation and Biodiversity

The general vegetation in the area is dominated by thorny trees and a substantial density of grass. This is a typical Savanna Biome as it is characterised by semi-arid, summer-rainfall conditions. The area has received exceptionally high rainfall and the abundance of grass is evidence thereof. Trees and shrubs are dominant accompanied by a variety of perennial and annual grass species.







Naturally occurring flora provides an indication of the present state of the environment; Although most of the vegetation is deciduous in the winter time, the picture is wholly different in the summer when the rainy season begins. At this time of the year everything turns green and even a few “wild flowers” are a welcome visual variation. During the site assessment conducted on 10 April 2020, many of the typical iconic plant species were observed to occur in the general surrounding areas. These include *Sterculia*, mopane, *Boscia* and various *Commiphora* species. While the landscape is predominantly covered in sparse thorn trees and bushes, the picture is a different one along the streams (tributaries to the Ugab River). Trees such as camelthorn, *Faidherbia* and umbrella thorn were found to grow on the fringes of the streams that are meandering through the landscape.



Figure 3: The landscape of the project site

Vegetation on the project site is very sparse with plants that are typical to the Namibian desert conditions. The plants occurring in the area have shallow root systems that are adapted to harvesting fog that drips onto the soil and they can withstand saline soil conditions. Pictures of the dominant plants are presented in the subsequent table with their conservation status.

Table 3: Vegetation on site reflecting a diverse and rich species composition

 <p><i>Colophospermum mopane</i> (Mopani Tree) Protected under Forestry Act</p>	 <p><i>Boscia albitrunca</i> (Shepherd's Tree) Protected under Forestry Act</p>
 <p><i>Salvadora persica</i> (Mustard bush) No protection status</p>	 <p><i>Hoodia gordonii</i> (Bushveld ghaab) Protected under Forestry Act</p>
 <p>A mixture of various grass species, dominated by <i>Enneapogon</i> and <i>Stipagrostis</i> species.</p>	
 <p><i>Commiphora glandulosa</i> (common corkwood) No protection status</p>	

All developments have potential negative environmental consequences, identifying the most important faunal species including high risk habitats beforehand, coupled with environmentally acceptable mitigating factors, lessens the overall impact of such development. Specific to the lodge development, the ephemeral rivers are important habitat to larger trees and occasional wildlife. Disturbance of such areas should therefore be prevented.

The major source of livelihood in the surrounding area is livestock farming (cattle, goats, sheep and to a lesser extent, horses and donkeys). Livestock and wildlife mainly depend on browse from the trees and shrubs along these rivers and the small subsidiary feeder rivers as grass on the adjacent rangeland is sparse and rapidly dries out at the end of the brief wet season (February to April). The area supports a variety of wildlife which frequent the riverine habitat, these include kudu, springbok, gemsbok, elephant, leopard and cheetah.

SECTION 5

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

5.2 Assessment of Impact Significance

The significance of an effect is determined by considering and measuring the temporal and spatial scales and magnitude of the project and specific activities associated with the proposed development. The assessment of the environmental impacts of development activities should always strive to be objective and impartial. However, environmental assessment processes can be exposed to subjectivity inherent in attempting to measure significance.

5.3 Determination of Significance

For each impact, the EXTENT (spatial scale), MAGNITUDE and DURATION (time scale) would be described. These criteria would be used to ascertain the SIGNIFICANCE of the impact, firstly in the case of no mitigation and then with the most effective mitigation measure(s) in place. The mitigation described in the Scoping Report would represent the full range of plausible and pragmatic measures.

Significance is not defined in the EIA Regulations, however the Draft Procedure and Guidance for EIA and EMP states that the significance of a predicted impact depends upon its context and intensity. Accordingly, the following have been applied in the environmental assessment, which is based on professional judgement:

- **High:** effects are considered to be key factors in the decision-making process. These are generally (but not exclusively) associated with sites and features of national importance and resources/features that are unique and which, if lost, cannot be replaced or relocated.
- **Medium:** effects are considered to be important factors, but which are unlikely to be key decision-making factors.
- **Low:** effects are considered to be local factors that are unlikely to be critical to decision-making.

The significance of effect has been derived by applying the identified thresholds for receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change, as well as the definition for significance. For each potential significant effect identified in the assessment, a summary is provided which includes the activity that would cause an impact; the potential effect; embedded or best practice mitigation; the sensitivity of receptor that would be impacted; the severity, duration and probability of effect; the significance of effect before mitigation and after additional mitigation.

5.4 Environmental Mitigation

Mitigation comprises a hierarchy of measures ranging from preventative of environmental effects by avoidance, to measures that provide opportunities for environmental enhancement. The mitigation hierarchy is: avoidance; reduction; compensation; remediation; and enhancement.

Embedded mitigation, is recommended to be part of the design, and good practice mitigation should be taken into consideration throughout the initial assessment of magnitude and determination of significance. Additional mitigation is identified if the significance of effect requires it and causes the effect to be further reduced. A final assessment of significance of effects is carried out taking into consideration the additional mitigation.

Implementing mitigation measures is therefore imperative and need to be combined with active control measures to maintain safety for all concerned parties. One of the priorities to implement in response to mitigating dust impacts would be introduction of a material-handling culture.

5.5 Cumulative Effects

The EIA Regulations clearly states that cumulative effects should be considered as part of the EIA for a proposed project. Cumulative effects can arise when a single resource or receptor is affected by more than one effect from the proposed project or from the combination of the proposed project and other development projects within the local area where combined effects can occur.

The impact of development projects and related activities may have detrimental effects on the environment, both bio-physical and social. While the proposed lodge may be the only such development in the surrounding community, there might be more development to be introduced and the combined effects may have impacts. It is therefore recognized that there is potential for cumulative effects to arise both within the proposed project (intra-project – combined effects from the proposed lodge and it's supporting infrastructure on the community as the receptor), but also from different developmental projects that will be introduced in the community. For example, the noise generated during the construction phase of the proposed project may not cause a significant effect in isolation; however, a sensitive receptor may be significantly affected when noise from the proposed project is combined with noise generated from other construction projects in the area.

The assessment of cumulative effects is undertaken by receptor rather than by topic or activity. There is no formal guidance for cumulative impacts presented and therefore professional judgment is used for the assessment.

5.6 Terrestrial Communities

Whilst the overall designation of the concerned community would not be jeopardised nor would a species of flora or fauna be completely destroyed or overall biodiversity affected as a result of the proposed lodge, activities during construction and operations could injure, kill or destroy individuals of flora or fauna which make up the high value receptor. These activities include:

- Vegetation removal during construction
- General construction and operational noises (use of equipment)
- Increased presence of humans (increase in human wildlife interactions)
- Increase in artificial light
- Use of plants, equipment and vehicles during construction and operation causing a nuisance and potential collision with wildlife; and
- Illegal hunting.

The activities listed above shall be undertaken within the confines of the project site boundaries. Construction work is expected to be completed within six months and the operations of the facility is expected to last for at least 20 years. Best practice measures shall be applied at all times in addition to various other mitigation measures specified in the EMP. Activities will not be intrusive, and the project shall be developed to work with the natural environment.

Birds would likely be affected during construction phase, which would be temporary (six months). Birds normally fly away from the noise and any change to their breeding habits is unlikely. Therefore, the change to the environment is expected to be very low and probability of affecting an individual is unlikely.

Taking into consideration the potential severity of impact on individuals, the very low magnitude of change, the geographic and temporal scale, and low probability, as well as the benefits that shall be achieved through project implementation, the conclusion of this assessment is that the significance of effect is expected to be low. Effects are unlikely to be critical to the decision making and no additional studies are considered necessary to further assess this risk of this impact. A summary is provided in **Error! Reference source not found.5**.

Table 5 – Impacts on Terrestrial Community

IMPACT DESCRIPTION:	Loss of terrestrial biodiversity		
Activity / phase	Construction and operations		
Criteria	Category		
Sensitivity	High	Reversibility: Reversible	Degree to which impact can be mitigated: High
Extent	Local & Regional		
Duration	Construction: Temporary Operations: Permanent		

Magnitude	Very low		
Probability	Unlikely		
MITIGATION:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All field guides must be trained appropriately • The lodge design must include suitable drainage • Waste water treatment plant • Activities at certain times to minimise disruption • Use of downward and appropriately placed lighting • Reduced light and noisy activities at certain times • Best practice measures found in the EMP 			
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low: effects are considered to be local factors that are unlikely to be critical to decision-making. 			

SECTION 6

6.1 STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION

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

6.2 PURPOSE AND PROCESS

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

This process benefits the EIA and design development process as the public may provide information that may not be available otherwise. Engaging and consulting early on in the EIA process minimizes potential complaints and objections, and assists the ECC application process.

The public consultation process will be guided by the tasks outlined below;

Sub-tasks	Activities
Identification of Stakeholders	Identify key stakeholders and develop a database for Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)
Authority consultation	Authority consultation entails discussions of the proposed activities with the relevant authorities.
Newspaper adverts	4 x newspaper adverts to inform the public about the proposed project and to invite interested parties to register as I&APs.
BID and public Notices	Circulation of the BID to registered I&APs and notices on notice boards
Public Participation Meetings	Members from Ongeama Tjovike and neighbouring villages will be invited to consultation meetings. Firstly, to inform them about the project and Secondly, to capture and incorporate their comments / concerns or recommendations. The public meeting is planned to be hosted in Okongwe Village.
Comments and Response Report	The EIA Regulations prescribe the duration to provide comments after notification by the Environmental practitioners of the EIA process as

	14 working days. Issues raised during consultation will be captured in the Comments and Responses Report (an appendix to the EIA Scoping Report)
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Public consultation forms an integral component of the EIA process. Comments made during the public participation have been captured and addressed in both the EIA Scoping report and EMP respectively.

The public participation process (PPP) allows interested and affected parties (I&APs) to identify issues and concerns related to the proposed project which they feel should be addressed in the EIA process. In return, the environmental assessment identifies feasible mitigation measures that can be implemented to address the identified issues / concerns. Furthermore, the PPP provides I&APs with an opportunity to gain more information regarding the proposed project, and to voice any issues of concern during the public comment process.

In order to conform to the EIA regulations, a public consultation process has been undertaken. A full stakeholder consultation process was undertaken from the onset of the project to ensure that the widest range of stakeholders was adequately and effectively consulted.

6.3 Consultation Activities

A summary of the consultation carried out for the proposed project is summarised in the table below.

Table 1: Summary of Stakeholder consultation activities

Task	Description	Action
Background Information Document (BID)	A BID was compiled and distributed to the public. The BID provides high level information about the proposed project and provides details on how I&APs can register their interest	Background Information Document (BID) developed and distributed to interested and affected parties (See attached)
Public Meeting	A public meeting was held to present the proposed development and solicit comments from the concerned community.	16 February 2019

	The minutes to the meeting held are attached to this report	
Sports Day	A sports day was organised by the developer at Okongue Primary School. The soccer tournament was held as a means of social responsibility by the client and to encourage the community members to interact through sports.	28 September 2019
Newspaper adverts	NEMA Act requires that advertisements be placed in at least two common newspapers for two consecutive weeks. As such, 4 x Adverts were placed in newspapers (Namib Times and The Namibian) for two consecutive weeks advertising the proposed project inviting I&APs to register their interest and to review the draft EIA Scoping and EMP reports	25 June 2021 2 July 2021
Comments and Response Report (CRR)	Stakeholder comments are to be incorporated in the environmental Scoping Report and EMP.	No comments were received

SECTION 7

7.1 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.2 Conclusion

The environmental assessment followed specific EIA methodology to establish if there are potential effects that may occur as a result of establishing the lodge. Due to the nature and localised scale of the proposed lodge, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner concluded that should the identified mitigation measures be implemented accordingly, there will be NO significant environmental effects resulting from the proposed lodge (narrated as the proposed project).

The EIA identified and assessed potential environmental effects and suitable mitigation and management measures to be applied during the construction and operational phases of the lodge in order to mitigate potential environmental impacts as presented in the EMP.

7.3 Recommendations

Various best practice and mitigation measures have been identified to avoid and reduce effects as far as reasonably practicable across the proposed project, as well as ensure the environment is protected and unforeseen effects are avoided.

On this basis, it is of the opinion of Environmental Assessment Practitioner that an ECC could be issued, on conditions that the management and mitigation measures specified in the EMP are implemented and adhered to.

REFERENCES

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