



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) STUDY FOR THE RUACANA SOUTH PHASE 1 AND RESERVOIR RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES IN THE OMUSATI REGION

PROJECT PROPONENT:

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM (MAWLR)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER/CONSULTANT:

D&P ENGINEERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



PLANNING & DESIGN ENGINEER:

LUND CONSULTING ENGINEERS



June 2023

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) hereinafter the project Proponent, supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB) proposes to upgrade the water supply network in the Omusati Region, for the Ruacana South Phase 1 and Reservoir Rural Water Supply Schemes.

The Phase 1 area extends southwards for a distance varying between 7 and 15km from the Olushandja –Ruacana tarred road. This Phase covers the Ruacana South Rural Water Supply Scheme (Ruacana South RWSS) and Reservoir Rural Water Supply Schemes in the Omusati Region. The project envisaged water supply to the area between the Olushandja Purification Plant in the east to the Ruacana Falls in the west. Please refer to the locality map in **Figure 1**.

1.1 Why an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Study

The proposed water supply infrastructure schemes upgrade and its associated activities, such as pipelines, reservoirs and boreholes are listed activities that cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate. are listed activities that cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) in accordance with the Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy, Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. In this respect, proposed development and associated activities require a specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Study prior to implementation.

The relevant listed activities that trigger the ESIA Study are as follows:

Listed Activity 8. Water Resource Developments

- 8.1 The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes.
- 8.2 The abstraction of groundwater at a volume exceeding the threshold authorized in terms of a law relating to water resources.
- 8.3 Any water abstraction from a river that forms an international boundary.
- 8.4 Construction of canals and channels including the diversion of the normal flow of water in a riverbed and water transfer schemes between water catchments and impoundments.
- 8.5 Construction of dams, reservoirs, levees and weirs.

Listed Activity 10. Infrastructure

- 10.1 The construction of-
 - (a) Oil, **water**, gas and petrochemical and other bulk supply pipelines.

Subsequently, MAWLR has appointed D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants to conduct an independent ESIA for the proposed water infrastructure upgrade and construction project to ascertain potential environmental and social impacts (both positive and negative) and establish how to improve or mitigate these impacts.

The ESIA study will present the description and analysis of the physical and biological shall address relevant environmental, social and climate change issues within this area, including any changes anticipated before project implementation. The description shall also integrate human conditions including population characteristics and trends, revenue disparities, gender differences, health problems, natural resource access and ownership and land use patterns biophysical and socio-economic baseline investigations relating to the proposed project.

All identified impacts will be described and addressed in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report and mitigated in the Management Plan (ESMP). These will be in compliance with the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007), the Environmental Assessment regulations of 2012, the African Development Bank (AfDB) Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures (ESAP) 2015 and the Integrated Safeguards System.

1.2 Aims & Objectives of the ESIA Process

The aims and objectives of the ESIA process are to:

- Comply with Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy, Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) with its 2012 EIA Regulations and the African Development Bank (AfDB) Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures (ESAP) 2015 and the Integrated Safeguards System (ISS) 2013.
- Consult all interested and affected parties (I&APs) such as local communities, traditional leadership, directly affected land owners and local authorities to ensure that their inputs are considered;
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by communities, in the Comments and Responses Report, which will be included in the ESIA report;
- Set up a grievance redressal system;
- Identify and review the institutional, policy and regulatory framework applicable to the project. This will include national, regional and international policies, legislations and AfDB requirements relevant to the project. This will cover environmental, social, climate change, Health and Safety and other aspects to which the project will have to comply with.
- Identify both negative and positive environmental and social impacts (water supply situation in terms of quantity, quality, access, affordability, brine treatment, livelihood opportunities, land requirements, adequacy and ownership for planned new infrastructure etc.) of the proposed development and assess alternatives (sites, pipeline routes, technological suitability and no-go option).
- Assess the significance of issues and concerns raised
- Develop a clear, concise and practical Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) addressing the following key areas:
 - Waste Management Plan
 - Grievance Redress Mechanism
 - Stakeholder Engagement
 - Pollution Prevention and control
 - Ecosystems and Biodiversity Management
- Develop Environmental Control and Monitoring procedures to ensure that the developed ESMP is implemented by the contractors and MAWLR (for the construction phase, and then NamWater for the operational and maintenance phase). The monitoring plan will designate roles and responsibilities, monitoring frequency and indicators for ESMP implementation and compliance enforcement.

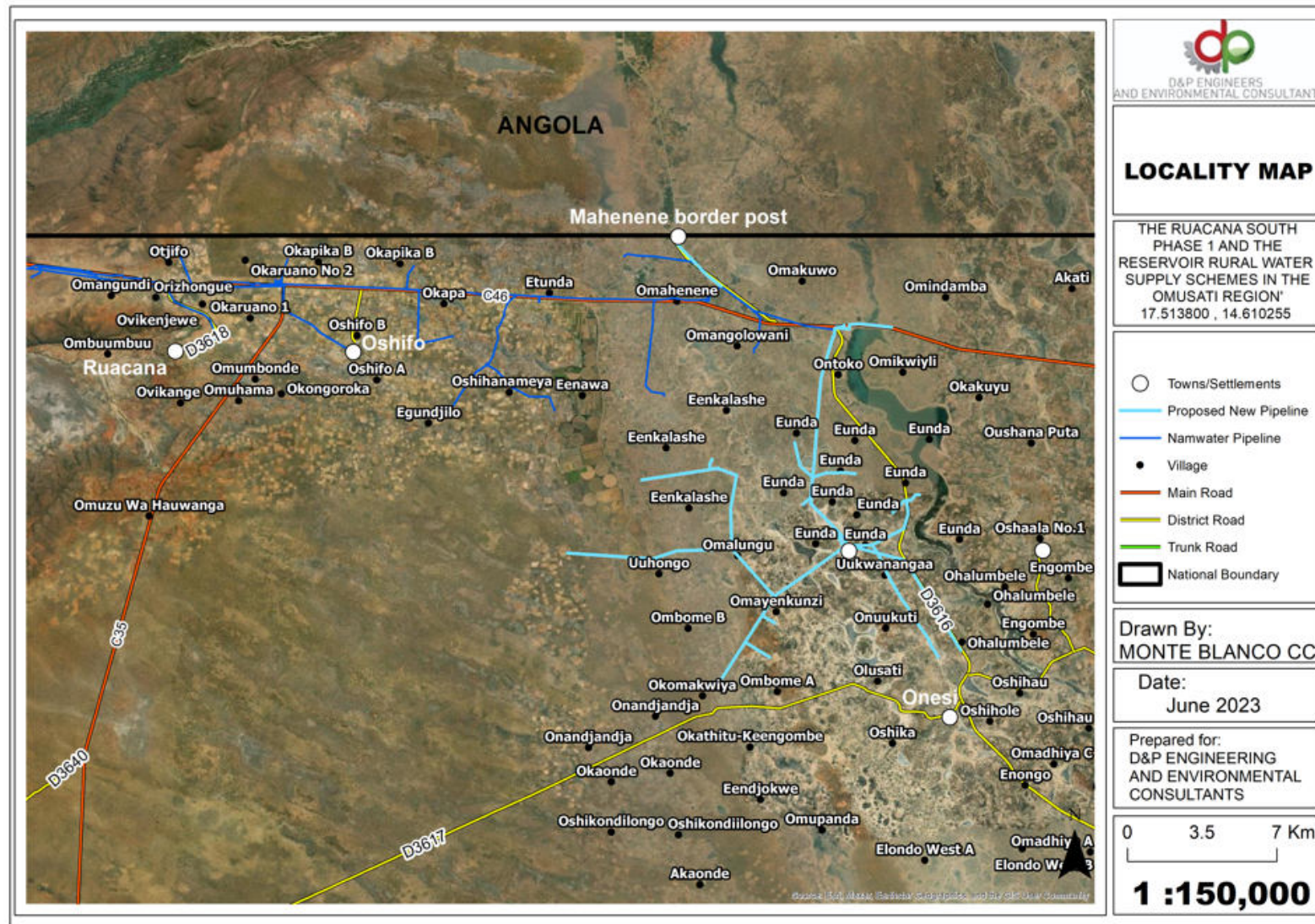


Figure 1: The locality map of the Ruacana South Phase 1 Water Supply Scheme in the Omusati Region

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

MAWLR's Directorate of Water Supply & Sanitation Coordination (DWSSC) proposes to upgrade the water supply network in the following area of the Omusati Region:

Phase 1 area extends southwards for a distance varying between 7 and 15km from the Olushandja –Ruacana tarred road. This Phase covers the Ruacana South Rural Water Supply Scheme (Ruacana South RWSS) and Reservoir Rural Water Supply Schemes in the Omusati Region. The project envisaged water supply to the area between the Olushandja Purification Plant in the east to the Ruacana Falls in the west.

The project is divided into three sub-areas, namely the:

- Sub Area 1: Ruacana South Rural Water Supply Scheme (Ruacana South RWSS)
- Sub-Area 2: Omusati West / Kunene East Supply Area
- Sub-Area 3: Okatseidi Supply Area.

2.1 Sub-Area 1: Ruacana South Rural Water Supply Scheme

The water supply to the densely populated Sub-Area 1 is currently covered primarily by groundwater (boreholes). The bulk pipeline network has been sized and constructed to extend into the Sub-Area. The area covers an area of about 460km², and bound to the north by the border with Angola. The western boundary of the Sub-Area runs southwards from the Ruacana Falls, approximately 11km from the Ruacana-Kamanjab road, and the Olushandja-Eunda pipeline forms the eastern boundary.

2.2 Sub-Area 2: Omusati West / Kunene East Supply Area

The Sub-Area is defined as the area along the main road between Ruacana and Omakange, and Omakange and Opuwo, within a corridor extending to 10km either side of the two roads. Sub-Area 2 covers an area of approximately 2,376km².

2.3 Sub-Area 3: Okatseidi Supply Area

This Sub-Area is the area to the east of Omakange, and defined as the proposed pipeline route from Omakange to Okatseidi, within a corridor extending 10km to either side. The Sub-Area covers an area of approximately 838km². The ring feed connecting the new infrastructure near Omakange, which will be supplied from the Olushandja Water Treatment Plant, with the existing pipeline network of the Tsandi South Water Supply Scheme, which is supplied from the Ombalantu (Outapi) Water Treatment Plant will be provided.

3 THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS AND CONSULTATION

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is an integral part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment process by providing a platform for all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to obtain information about the proposed project, to review project documentation, to provide input and voice any concerns regarding the project.

A series of public meetings will be conducted and these meetings will avail an opportunity to comment, ask questions and raise any concerns regarding the project implementation. All comments will be recorded and considered in the Scoping Report Environmental Management Plan that will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for review. In addition, conditions for environmental compliance monitoring will also be derived from the public meeting and stakeholders’ recommendations.

3.1 Public Participation Modes: Consultation Meetings

This Public Consultation process forms an important component of the Environmental Assessment process. It is defined in the EIA Regulations (2012), as a “process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to, specific matters”. As a Stakeholder or I&AP, you can participate through the following:

- Providing comments and concerns and or suggestions in response to the newspaper adverts, public printed notices and in the public consultation meetings
- Attending scheduled public consultation meetings as presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: The list of public consultation meetings for the Ruacana South Water Supply Scheme Phase 1

Date and Time	Activity	Venue/Place
Monday, 17 July 2023: 09h30	Public Consultative Meeting	Oshifo
Monday, 17 July 2023: 14h00	Public Consultative Meeting	To be communicated through the Constituency Offices
Tuesday, 18 July 2023: 09h30	Public Consultative Meeting	To be communicated through the Constituency Offices
Tuesday, 18 July 2023: 14h00	Public Consultative Meeting	Omakange

4 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The potential positive (benefits) and negative (adverse) impacts associated with the proposed development and its associated activities are presented below.

Positive

- Water Infrastructure development and betterment of the communities served by the water supply infrastructure
- Temporary employment creation to both skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled (casual labour) during the construction phase
- Boost in local economy and investment capacity
- Improved Sanitation through safe and accessible clean water.

Negative impacts

The preliminary adverse or negative impacts identified for the proposed project are as follows (pending consultation meetings and site route assessment)

- Land Use Change (Aesthetic value)
- Physical land / soil disturbance resulting in compaction and erosion,
- Impacts on fauna and Flora
- Impacts on surface and groundwater resources (abstraction, discharge and spillages)
- Waste generation (littering)
- Culture, heritage and archaeological impacts
- Occupational and community health and safety risks/hazards during the construction phase
- Displacement of properties (Displacement, Resettlement and Compensation Plan to be implemented)
- Cumulative impacts of the project Operation (Environmental Compliance Monitoring and Reporting to be done)

5 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reporting

5.1 Environmental and Social Scoping/Impact Assessment Report

After the baseline assessment to identify the potential impacts relevant to the assessment/study has been completed, an Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) will be compiled. The extent or depth of assessment will be (based on legislative requirements, international conventions, expert knowledge and public involvement), to identify alternative solutions that avoid, mitigate or compensate adverse impacts on biodiversity (including the option of not proceeding with the development). The ESR will include the findings of alternative designs or project route(s) which avoid the impacts, as well as safeguards and incorporating grievance redressal mechanisms in the design of the project, or providing compensation for adverse impacts.

The ESR will also detail proposed mitigation options for all identified impacts. The final ESR with inputs from MAWLR will be shared with public, I&APs and stakeholders for review and commenting.

The finalised ESR will determine the need for further specialist assessments, and where there is no need for further assessments (Specialists) a detailed practical and concise ESMP will be developed.

5.2 Environmental and Social Management Plan

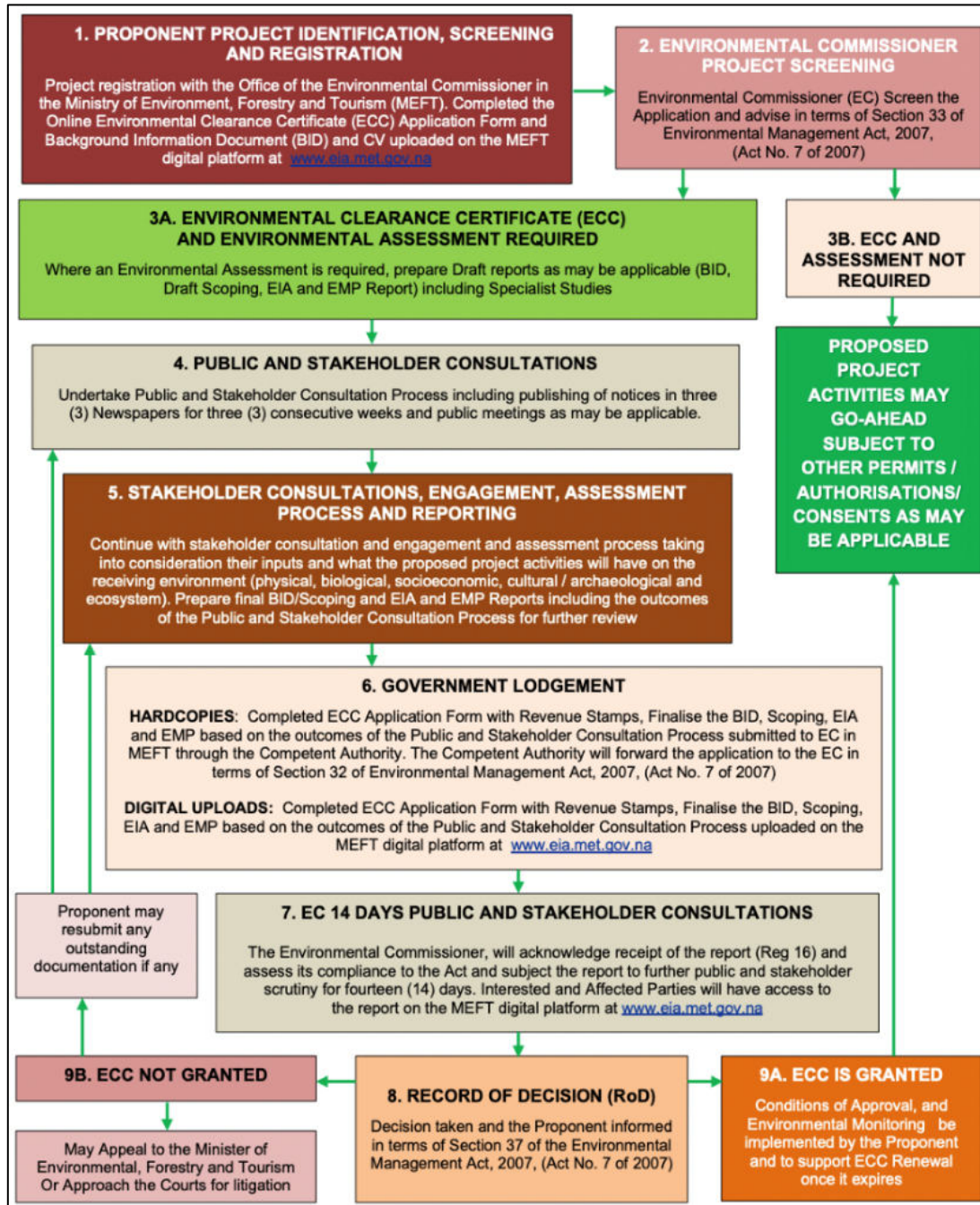
Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) is a tool utilised to mitigate and/ or enhance the potential impacts of the proposed water supply scheme. Therefore, a project specific and practical Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be developed by Environmental Assessment Practitioner after the consultation and public participation process. The objective of the ESMP will be to ensure compliance with the EMA No. 7 of 2007, AfDB Environmental and Social Safeguards, Equator Principles, the IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability.

To ensure that the ESMP is effectively implemented and full compliance of the ESMP, an Environmental Control and Monitoring (ECM) will also be developed

MAWLR will ensure that the stakeholder/public consultation, grievance redressal and community-MAWLR/NamWater liaison, periodic compliance monitoring, auditing and reporting will be conducted by the Environmental Consultant, together with the appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the contractor responsible for the construction and upgrading of the water supply infrastructure.

The final ESR/ESIA Report, ESMP and specialist assessment reports (if any) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Tourism (MEFT). The process of the ESIA process (or simply EIA process in Namibia) is presented in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2: The EIA



Process in Namibia to be followed for the project ESIA Study

5.3 Mode of Communication for Participation and Submitting Comments

Should you wish to send us your inputs, concerns and/or comments to be considered in the ESIA Report, please send them to DPE Environmental Consultant in writing **before or on Friday 28 July 2023** using the contact details below:

Contact Persons: Ms. Fredrika Shagama / Ms. Kristian Shiwayu

Email: info@dpe.com.na

Telephone No.: +264 61 302 672

Mobile No.: +264 81 749 9223 (via WhatsApp or SMS for recording purposes)

REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS FORM

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: THE RUACANA SOUTH PHASE 1 AND RESERVOIR RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES IN THE OMUSATI REGION

Kindly complete this Form in Detail and return to:

D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants

Contact No.: +264 61 302 672 / +264 81 749 9223

Email: info@dpe.com.na

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name & Surname.....

Postal Address:Email:

Town or Village Name: Mobile No:

Does the proposed project affect you in any way?

YES / NO

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Do you have any points of concern or support regarding the proposed projects? If "yes", please briefly list these in point format:

YES / NO

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Do you wish this project to proceed?

YES / NO

SIGNATURE:
