

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN OKAHAO

Subdivision of the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 into Portion A and B , Townships Establishment on Portion A and B to be known as Okahao Extension 15 and 16

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

Activity 10.1 (a) Infrastructure

The construction of oil, water, gas and petrochemical and other bulk supply pipelines (The project involves the installation of bulk services)

Activity 10.1 (b) Infrastructure

The construction of Public roads (The proposed project includes the construction of roads)

Activity 10.2 (a) Infrastructure

The route determination of roads and design of associated physical infrastructure where – it is a public road; (The proposed project includes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

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

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

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

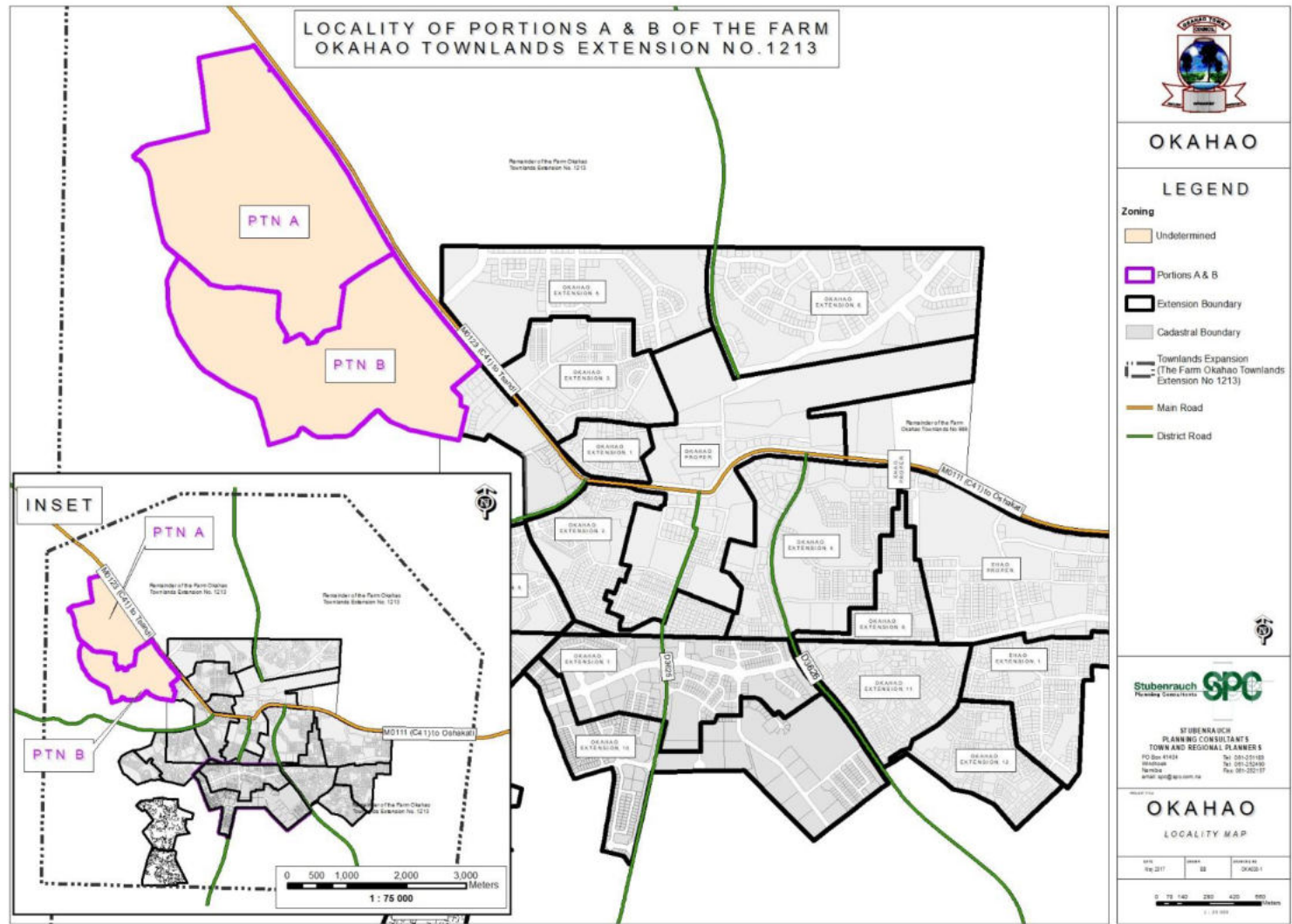
The Okahao Town Council hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- a) Subdivision of the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 into Portions A, B & Remainder**
- b) Layout approval and township establishment on Portion A and B of the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 to be known as Okahao Extension 15 and 16**

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

The proponent commissioned this EIA and appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for an Environmental Clearance with the Environmental Commissioner as prescribed by the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). In line with Regulation 21(2) of the mentioned EIA Regulations, this BID is distributed to potential I&APs as part of the public consultation process for this EIA.

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



3.2 Zoning

Town and Townlands areas owned by a Local Authority are normally reserved for future town expansion purposes. Hence, the subject area is zoned for “Undetermined” purposes in accordance to the Okahao Town Planning Scheme, making it suitable for the establishment of the proposed townships.

3.3 Ownership

The Ownership of the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 on which the proposed Okahao Extension 15 and Okahao Extension 16 townships are to be established vests with the Okahao Town Council.

3.4 Project Background

The Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 is to be subdivided into Portion A, B and the Remainder, to enable the establishment of the Okahao Extension 15 and Okahao Extension 16 townships.

The area on the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 which is earmarked for the establishment of the Okahao townships has few structures mainly local businesses and residential structures which have been fairly incorporated into the layout plans for the proposed Okahao Extension 15 and Okahao Extension 16 townships. The proposed area is located on higher grounds and developable land, limiting the effect of possible inundations from the natural stormwater drainage lines (iishana) which surround the subject area.

3.5 Proposed Development

The Okahao Town Council intends to establish two townships in Okahao to be known as Okahao Extension 15 and Okahao Extension 16 in order to create additional properties that will cater to the varying property needs for the residents of Okahao.

The establishment of the proposed townships on the proposed Portions A and B of the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 is a response to the need for additional properties such as; Residential, General Residential, Business, Office, Industrial, Institutional, Local Authority, Government, Private and Public Open Spaces in the town of Okahao as identified by the Okahao Town Council.

The Remainder of the proposed Portion A and the Remainder of the proposed Portion B of the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 will serve as “Streets” providing access to the various erven within the proposed townships of the Okahao Extension 15 and the Okahao Extension 16 ensuring ease of movement and connectivity within the neighborhoods and the surrounding areas.

Below are the 2 land utilisation tables, depicting the apportionment of the land on the two proposed Portions; Portion A and B of the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 for the establishment of the proposed townships.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY TABLE OF LAND USES PROVIDED WITHIN OKAHAO EXTENSION 15

Zoning	No of Erven	± Total Area(ha)	% of Total Area
Residential	102	9.74	8.32
General Residential	8	0.52	0.45
Business	45	8.64	7.38
Office	22	1.29	1.10
Light Industrial	37	11.23	9.60
Industrial	71	19.95	17.05
Institutional	1	0.42	0.36
Local Authority	1	0.54	0.46
Undetermined	1	7.81	0
Public Open Space	29	22.70	19.40
Street	Remainder	34.20	29.22
TOTAL	318 & Remainder	117.03	100.00

TABLE 2: SUMMARY TABLE OF LAND USES PROVIDED WITHIN OKAHAO EXTENSION 16

Zoning	No of Erven	± Total Area(ha)	% of Total Area
Residential	157	13.51	13.30
General Residential	22	3.72	3.67
Business	109	14.91	14.68
Institutional	4	16.21	15.96
Local Authority	1	0.35	0.35
Government	1	0.53	0.52
Private Open Space	3	9.77	9.62
Public Open Space	23	14.16	13.94
Street	Remainder	28.39	27.95
TOTAL	320 & Remainder	101.55	100.00

3.5.1 Engineering services

Electricity, water and sewer

The proposed Okahao Extension 15 and Extension 16 to be established on Portion A and B of the Farm Okahao Townlands Extension No. 1213 will be connected to the existing Municipal reticulation network of the Okahao Town Council which comprises of water, electricity and sewer systems. The extension of the electricity connection to the proposed townships will be done in accordance and to the satisfaction of NORED which currently provides electrical power to the town of Okahao. The design for the extension of water and sewer services will be done in accordance and to the satisfaction of the Engineering and Technical Services Department of the Okahao Town Council.

Storm Water

Stormwater is drained as per the natural drainage system on the site and additional storm water drainage and management measures will be employed in accordance with the Okahao Town Council Drainage System.

3.5.2 Access Provision

Access to the proposed townships will be obtained from the M0123 (C41) Road to Tsandi as well as from the street adjacent East of the proposed Okahao Extension 16 west of Okahao Proper.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE INFORMATION

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

4.1 Biophysical Environment

4.1.1 Climate

The climate of the subject area can be described as semi-arid. Average annual temperatures are usually more than 22 °C, with average maximum temperatures between 34°C and 36 °C and average minimum temperatures between 6°C and 8 °C (Mendelsohn, Jarvis, Roberts & Roberston, 2002).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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

4.1.2 Topography, Soils and Geology

The soil of the northern Namibia is dominated by deep Kalahari and Namib sand that mostly occur in the formation of sands and other sedimentary materials, while the clay sodic sands dominate in the Oshanas (Mendelsohn, 2002).

4.1.3 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The groundwater of the Cuvelai Basin is relatively shallow but mostly brackish or saline. The ground water in the area is found in shallow discontinuous aquifers (Perched Aquifers). All groundwater within the basin flows towards the Etosha Pan, due to the structure of the basin and because as the pan deepest point, is the base level of the groundwater flow system (Ministry of Water Agriculture and Forestry, 2011).

5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified so far:

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

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

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment process involves interaction with people who are interested in, or who could be affected by the proposed development and/or operational activities of the proposed Ondangwa development. As part of this process a public meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday, 7 July 2023

Time: 10h00

Venue: Okahao Fire Brigade Hall

To further obtain inputs into the developments to take place, communication will be sent out to various potential I&APs and Line Ministries in addition to the public notices to be placed in the newspapers, on the sites and around the subject area to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

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

Public participation process gives you the opportunity to:

- Obtain information about the proposed project
- Raise any environmental issues relating to the project

How can you be involved?

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

We are inviting the public to participate by contributing issues and suggestions regarding the proposed projects on or before **14 July 2023**. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

8 REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

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

Postal Address:
Comments/Suggestions and Questions:

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

Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) Tel: 061 25 11 89 Fax: 061 25 21 57 E-Mail: bronwynn@spc.com.na
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