

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN RUNDU

Rezoning of Erf 3447, Ndama
Extension 10, Kavango East Region

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

Activity 5.1 (a) Rezoning

The rezoning of land from use for
nature conservation or zoned open
space to any other land use (The
proposed project includes the
rezoning of land from residential
use to commercial use)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

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

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 Rundu Town Council, hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

Rezoning of Erf 3447, Ndama Extension 10 from "Single Residential" to "Business" with a bulk of 1.0

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

The proponent commissioned this EIA and appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for an

Environmental Clearance with the Environmental Commissioner as prescribed by the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). In line with Regulation 21(2) of the mentioned EIA Regulations, this BID is distributed to potential I&APs as part of the public consultation process for this EIA.

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

3 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Locality

Erf 3447 is situated with the neighbourhood of Ndama Extension 10. Please refer to **Figure 1** below for the locality of the intended development.

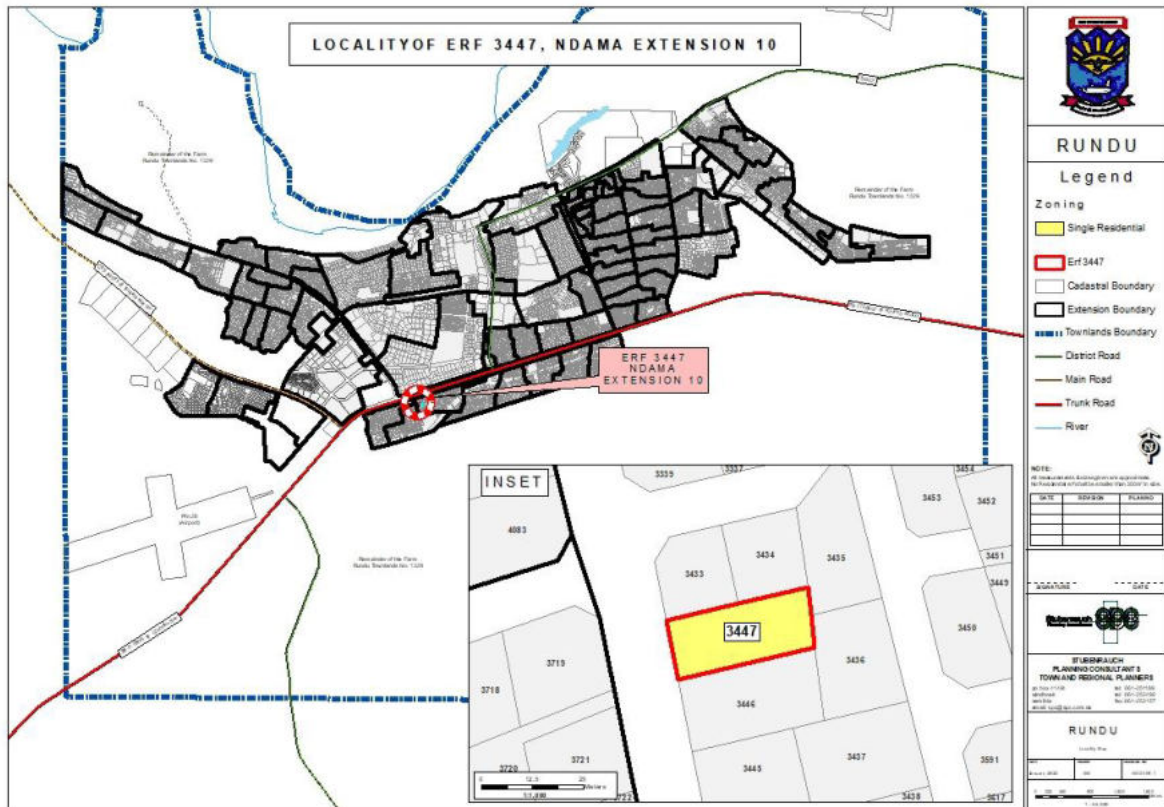


FIGURE 1: LOCALITY MAP OF ERF 3447 NDAMA EXTENSION 10

3.2 Proposed Development

Erf 3447, Ndama Extension 10 currently accommodates a Business Establishment, as depicted in **Figure 3** below. A property zoned for “Single Residential” purposes is not appropriately zoned to accommodate a business establishment, and as such, it is necessary to formalise the business on the property by rezoning the subject erf, as laid out in this application.

It is the intention of the proponent to formalize and properly zone the subject erf for the business on the erf (depicted on Figure 3 above) to be properly accommodated and to allow the issuing of a fitness certificate by the Rundu Town Council for the subject business. This is being achieved through the proposed rezoning of Erf 3447, Ndama Extension 10 from “Single Residential” to “Business” with a bulk of 1.0, please refer to **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** below for the intended rezoning.

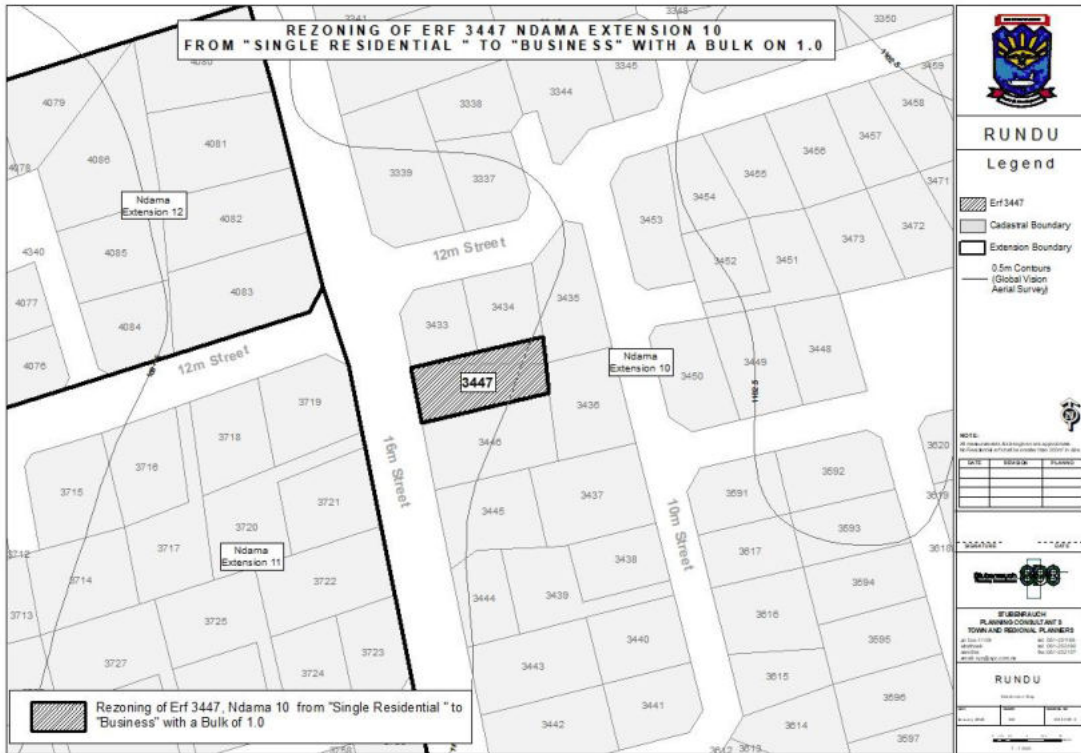


FIGURE 2: REZONING OF ERF 3447, NDAMA EXTENSION 10 FROM "SINGLE RESIDENTIAL" TO "BUSINESS" WITH A BULK OF 1.0.

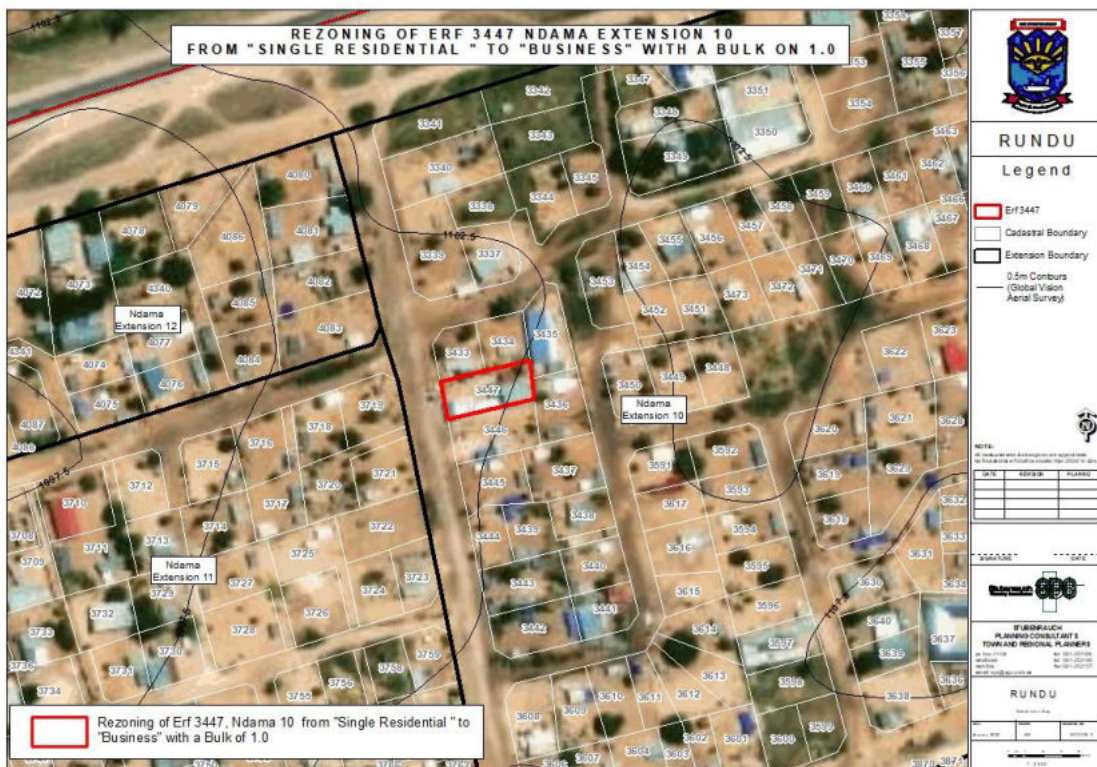


FIGURE 3: AERIAL PHOTO OF THE REZONING OF ERF 3447, NDAMA EXTENSION 10 FROM "SINGLE RESIDENTIAL" TO "BUSINESS" WITH A BULK OF 1.0.

4 THE 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 Rundu is sub-tropical, tempered by the altitude, with a hot, rainy season from November to March and a long dry season from April to October (Cecchini, 2021). Situated in north-eastern Namibia, the Kavango East Region enjoys generally more rainfall than the rest of the country to the south and west. Annual average rainfall varies between about 450 and 600 mm, with a clear increasing trend from south to north. Rains fall almost entirely in summer, with the months from May to September usually being dry, and the first early rains coming to the region in October and November. Highest rainfalls usually occur in January and February (Stubenrauch Planning Consultants, Geocarta Namibia, SAIEA, AHT Group AG, 2015).

The Kavango East is usually warm to hot. Average maximum temperatures are above 30°C for nine months of the year, and average minimums are below 10 °C during the coolest months June, July and August. Temperatures below freezing are occasionally recorded but are rare and are usually only experienced in low-lying valleys such as found along the Kavango River and Omurambas (Stubenrauch Planning Consultants, Geocarta Namibia, SAIEA, AHT Group AG, 2015).

The warm dry conditions mean that evaporation is high. Rundu, for example, can expect to receive 590 mm of rain (the annual average), with a potential evaporation of about 2000 mm/a. Wind speeds are generally very low, and in most months, it is completely calm for over half the time.

4.1.2 Topography, Soils and Geology

The Kavango East Region is a gently undulating plain of unconsolidated sands, sloping gradually down northwards to the Kavango River and eastwards to the lowest areas along the river before it enters Botswana (Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, 2015). The sandy plain is incised by the Kavango River and other smaller ephemeral river channels, the most prominent one being the Omuramba-Omatoko that runs roughly northwards to meet the Kavango River east of Rundu.

Rundu can be defined as predominantly flat with a topographic ridge line sweeping around the north of the town along the edge of the flood plain and turning back into the town as it follows the ephemeral water course (Stubenrauch Planning Consultants, 2013).

4.1.1 4.1.3 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Surface water in Namibia is generally very limited and regarded as precious resources where they are available all year round. The most important water source in the Kavango East Region is the perennial Kavango River, which is the major source of water for the rural communities concentrated along the river (Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, 2015). Boreholes and dug-wells are concentrated along the Kavango River, the Omatako Valley and the main roads from Grootfontein to Rundu (Ministry of Agriculture Water and Rural Development, 2011). In addition, abstraction from the Kavango River provides water to Rundu Town, other smaller towns and agricultural schemes within the region.

4.1.2 Fauna and Flora

The Rundu area falls within the Broadleaved Tree-and-Shrub Savanna Biome. The town of Rundu is situated on the wall of the Kavango River in the Okavango valley. The area is known to be of Namibia's most densely vegetated areas composed of floodplain grasslands and lush woodlands. Broadly speaking, relatively larger deep-rooted trees such as teak and mangetti dominate on deep sands, while shallower soils in valleys support shrubs and grasses of various species.

The larger trees such as kiat (Pterocarpus angolensis), teak (Baikaea plurijuga), silver terminalia (Terminalia sericea) and red seringa (Burkea Africana) constitute a valuable resource of timber that is used for furniture, construction, carvings and firewood. A number of species are valued for food, such as false mopane (Guibourtia coleosperma), mangetti (Schinziophyton rautanenii) and monkey oranges (Strychnos cocculoides) – these are important resources for rural livelihoods. Tall grasses in the woodlands are harvested for thatching.

The banks of the Kavango River originally supported forests with distinctive trees such as knobthorn (Acacia nigrescens), weeping wattle (Peltophorum africanum) and jackalberry (Diospyros mespiliformis), and a dense shrubby undergrowth. However much of the riverine forest has disappeared with only a few localised patches of this vegetation type remaining, almost entirely within the protected area of Bwabwata National Park (Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, 2015).

Along the river some areas are seasonally inundated with floodplains, where large areas of reeds grow in the river margins when water levels rise. There are also permanently swamped areas (e.g. near the Cuito confluence) with meanders, oxbow lakes and waterlogged floodplains, fringed with papyrus and other reeds and swamp vegetation (Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, 2015).

The Rundu area boasts an overall high terrestrial diversity of plants and animals. Plant diversity is estimated to be between 400 and 499 species. A total of 658 bird species has been recorded in Namibia. Rundu has a bird diversity of between 171 to 200 species. One endemic plant is recorded to occur in the Kavango Valley which is the Ringwood tree, Maerua schinzii, which grows along riverbanks and water courses. Protected plants include the African protea (Protea gaguedi), the orchid (Eulophia hereroensis) and two aloes found specifically in the vicinity of Andara (Aloe esculenta and A. zebrina) (Bethune, 1991).

4.2 Engineering services and Access Provision

Erf 3447, Ndama Extension 10 is fully connected to the municipal reticulation system of the Rundu Town Council, which consists of water, electricity and sewer connections. This connection will be maintained. Storm water run-off will be accommodated within the street reserves or then as stipulated by the Rundu Town Council.

The subject erf currently obtains access from the internal street network of Ndama Extension 10, which has a 16m wide street reserve. After the formalization of the business, access to the subject erf will remain as is.

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The proposed developments are not expected to impact the surrounding biophysical and social environment significantly as the development intends to formalize the current situation which are existing on the ground. As such no construction of new buildings are anticipated for the proposed development as most of the erven are already developed. 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 Rundu development. As part of this process communication will be sent out to various potential I&APs and Line Ministries in addition to the public notices to be placed in the newspapers, on the site and around the subject area to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

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

Public participation process gives you the opportunity to:

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

How can you be involved?

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

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 MET
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to Appeal.

We are inviting the public to participate by contributing issues and suggestions regarding the proposed projects on or before **11 March 2024**. 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 11 89 E-Mail: bronwynn@spc.com.na
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