

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR THE PROPOSED MINERALS EXPLORATION
FOR BASE & RARE METALS, DIMENSION STONE,
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS AND,
PRECIOUS METALS
WITHIN EPL 7564
NEAR OKANGWATI

Kunene Region



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Alliance Environmental Consultancy CC (AEC) (herein referred to as the consultant) has been appointed by Mr. Loubser Stephan Johann January (herein referred to as the proponent) to act on their behalf in obtaining an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed minerals exploration on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) 7564. The project area is located 13km southeast of Okangwati within the Okangwati conservancy near Ohamaremba village in the Kunene Region. The site is accessible via the C43 or D3700 road. The EPL covers approximately 1320.1508 hectares.

This Scoping Report has been compiled in support of an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate and includes an Environmental Impact Assessment section. Mitigation and enhancement measures which have been identified during the compilation of this report have been carried forward into an Environmental Management Plan which has been bound with attached to this report. The exploration activities are for base and rare metals, dimension stone industrial minerals and precious metals. The proposed activities are among the listed activities under the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, which may not be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate (ECC). Thus, the need for this scoping report.

The Kunene Region is known for its unique, prideful diverse culture as it holds one of the indigenous tribes (Ovahimba people) country wide, tourism aspect inclusive of the natural phenomenon (Epupa fall) and also its richness in geographical aspects and features. Other than that, the region is also known for most stone mining and explorations. Kunene is relatively under-developed, but with the high potential for agriculture, tourism, mining and logistical development it thrives to be great. The under-development of this region is mainly caused by its mountainous geographical features and its harsh climatic conditions that hinders mainly agriculture.

The Okangwati area is dry with high temperatures, it is mostly associated with mopane trees as the main vegetation type. Most people in this area (Ovahimba community) are communal farmers, reliant on livestock and maize meal farming.

The identification of potential impacts included impacts that may occur during the planning, construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. The assessment of

impacts includes direct, indirect as well as cumulative impacts. In order to identify potential impacts (both positive and negative) it is important that the nature of the proposed projects is well understood so that the impacts associated with the projects can be assessed and the mitigations as detailed in the EMP Report (Appendix B) are implemented and monitored by the Proponent.

The following potential impacts on the environment during construction and operation activities have been identified:

- Dust & Noise
- Health & Safety
- Visual
- Ecological
- Groundwater and surface water
- Heritage & Socio-Economic

Due to the limited scope of the proposed activities and the use of a step-by-step approach in advancing construction and operations, the overall severity of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project activities on the receiving environment will be of medium magnitude, temporally duration, localized extent, and high probability of occurrence. All impacts are provided with mitigation measures, minimized or avoided to acceptable degrees provided that the measures are put into consideration

Based on the conclusions of this EIA Report, it is thus recommended that an Environmental Clearance Certificate be provided for the planned project activities. When implementing the proposed program, the Proponent shall consider the following critical requirements:

If applicable, the Proponent will negotiate Access Agreements with landowners/authorities.

- The Proponent is responsible for obtaining all additional permits that may be required.
- In accordance with all applicable national rules, the Proponent shall comply with all terms of the EMP and conditions of the Access Agreement to be signed into between the Proponent and the landowner/s.
- In cases where baseline information, national or international guidelines, or mitigation measures have not been supplied or do not adequately address the site-specific project effect, the Proponent must use the precautionary approach/principles.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AEC	Alliance Environmental Consultancy
BID	Background information Document
CV	Curriculum Vitae
°C	Degree Celsius
DEA	Directorate of Environmental Affairs
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMA	Environmental Management Act No 7 of 2007
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPL	Exclusive Prospecting Licence
H&S	Health & Safety
IAPs	Interested and Affected Parties
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
km	Kilometre
MAP	Mean annual precipitation
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MEFT	Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
PPP	Public Participation Process
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Alternatives	A possible course of action, in place of another, that would meet the same purpose and need but which would avoid or minimize negative impacts or enhance project benefits. These can include alternative locations/sites, routes, layouts, processes, designs, schedules and/or inputs. The "no-go" alternative constitutes the 'without project' option and provides a benchmark against which to evaluate changes; development should result in net benefit to society and should avoid undesirable negative impacts.
Competent Authority	A body or person empowered under the local authorities act or Environmental Management Act to enforce the rule of law.
Environment	As defined in the Environmental Assessment Policy and Environmental Management Act - "land, water and air; all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms as well as biological diversity; the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in sub-paragraphs, the human environment insofar as it represents archaeological, aesthetic, cultural, historic, economic, palaeontological or social values".
Environmental Assessment (EA)	Process of assessment of the effects of a development on the environment.
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	A working document on environmental and socio-economic mitigation measures, which must be implemented by several responsible parties during all the phases of the proposed project.
Evaluation	The process of ascertaining the relative importance or significance of information, the light of people's values, preference and judgements in order to make a decision.
Hazard	Anything that has the potential to cause damage to life, property and/or the environment. The hazard of a particular material or installation is constant; that is, it would present the same hazard wherever it was present.
Interested and Affected Party (IAP)	Any person, group of persons or organisation interested in, or affected by an activity; and any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity.

Mitigate	The implementation of practical measures to reduce adverse impacts.
Proponent (Applicant)	Any person who has submitted or intends to submit an application for an authorisation, as legislated by the Environmental Management Act no. 7 of 2007, to undertake an activity or activities identified as a listed activity or listed activities; or in any other notice published by the Minister or Ministry of Environment & Tourism.
Public	Citizens who have diverse cultural, educational, political and socio-economic characteristics. The public is not a homogeneous and unified group of people with a set of agreed common interests and aims. There is no single public. There are a number of publics, some of whom may emerge at any time during the process depending on their particular concerns and the issues involved.
Scoping Process	Process of identifying: issues that will be relevant for consideration of the application; the potential environmental impacts of the proposed activity; and alternatives to the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable.
Significant Effect/Impact	An impact that by its magnitude, duration, intensity or probability of occurrence may have a notable effect on one or more aspects of the environment.
Stakeholder Engagement	The process of engagement between stakeholders (the proponent, authorities and IAPs) during the planning, assessment, implementation and/or management of proposals or activities. The level of stakeholder engagement varies depending on the nature of the proposal or activity as well as the level of commitment by stakeholders to the process. Stakeholder engagement can therefore be described by a spectrum or continuum of increasing levels of engagement in the decision-making process. The term is considered to be more appropriate than the term "public participation".
Stakeholders	A sub-group of the public whose interests may be positively or negatively affected by a proposal or activity and/or who are concerned with a proposal or activity and its consequences. The term therefore includes the proponent, authorities (both the lead authority and other authorities) and all interested and affected parties (I&APs). The principle that environmental consultants and stakeholder engagement practitioners should be independent and unbiased excludes these groups from being considered stakeholders.

**Sustainable
Development**

“Development that meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and aspirations” – the definition of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987).

“Improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems” – the definition given in a publication called “Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Wide Fund for Nature (1991).

1. INTRODUCTION

Alliance Environmental Consultancy CC (AEC) (herein referred to as the consultant) has been appointed by Mr. Loubser Stephan Johann January (herein referred to as the proponent) to act on their behalf in obtaining an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed minerals exploration on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) 7564. The project area is located 13km southeast of Okangwati in the Kunene Region. The site is accessible via the C43 road. The EPL covers approximately 1320.1508 hectares. Figure 1 shows the locality of the area. EPL 7564 is held by Loubser Stephan Johann January. The exploration activities will be assessed in this report and an Environmental Management Plan will be provided (Appendix B).

1.1. Project Activities

TYPE OF EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

Below is a summary of the exploration activities.

1. Exploration includes a desktop review of existing data plus past research. This is conducted in the area of focus to ensure the presence of the prospective targets. It is usually done by purchasing very high-resolution data from the Government and then interpreting it as its first phase of the activity (exploration).
2. Regional reconnaissance assessment, which includes field-base activities inclusive of regional mapping and sampling in order to validate and identify prospective targeted areas identified in phase 1. This phase gives a green light for more to be done, it is only proceeded if some targets have been identified and will need further exploration.
3. Initial field-based activities such as widely distributed geological mapping, sampling, surveying, and maybe widely spaced trenching and drilling to verify the feasibility of any identified local target based on the regional data acquired in step 2 above. The degree or depth of exploration carried out at this stage is contingent on the discovery of viable/prospective mineral resources.

To assess the viability of the delineated local targets, detailed local field-based operations such as localized site-specific detailed geology mapping, trenching, bulk sample, surveying and detailed drilling are carried out. The most commonly used drilling techniques are Reverse Circulation Drilling (RC) or Diamond Drilling. Both methods are applied in exploration, resource evaluation and subsequently in defining an ore reserve. If the detailed exploration activities

yield positive results, the exploration data will be compiled into a pre-feasibility report, and if the prefeasibility results are positive, a detailed feasibility study will be conducted on the identified site-specific area, which will include detailed site-specific drilling, bulk sampling and laboratory testing/test.

The following is a summary of the envisaged project development process that will be implemented during the proposed exploration activities;

- planning and permitting
- Site preparation for the exploration team if required (temporary camps).
- Supporting infrastructure, access, energy and water supply
- Preparation of drill sites and drilling operations
- Decommissioning final rehabilitation

ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

The location will be accessible through the D3700/C43 district road and via existing tracks as far practically possible. There will be no creation of tracks if the need arises, new access roads will be assessed for any environmental sensitivity.

If the Proponent intends to continue with field-based activities, it is the Proponents responsibility to negotiate access agreements with landowner's interests are always observed and as may be agreed upon with the landowners individually. Permission from landowners and appropriate authorities is required for any new tracks.

RESOURCES (WATER AND ELECTRICITY)

Exploration activities usually needs a supply of water which will be brought to the site. Should the company find good groundwater during the exploration activity, the borehole may be used as a water source provided the permission of the community is given and the necessary abstraction permit is attained from the department of water affairs. Again, only sustainable yields may be abstracted. A diesel-powered generator will be used as needed for exploration equipment and lighting for the project.

ACCOMODATION AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

The exploration team will either be commuting from nearby settlements or will establish camp sites within the license area and with the permission of the community. The exploration team

is envisioned to consist of three skilled and 15 non-skilled workers. Clearing of vegetation at the planned drill sites will be necessary. Larger trees should be retained so that the bush can restore itself. Permits from the forestry directorate will be required for this purpose. Where necessary, stockpiling of topsoil for rehabilitation at a later stage will be undertaken. Rehabilitation landscaping of exploration areas will be undertaken upon completion of the exploration program.

portable toilets will be installed on-site and regularly serviced. Vehicles (especially pick up bakkies) and heavy machinery including drill rigs and truck will be used during the exploration phase of the project. Waste will be collected and deposited to the nearest municipal dumpsite e.g., Opuwo Town dumpsite. Hydrocarbon tanks will be appropriately stored and banded to hold 110% of the capacity of the tanks and all relevant permits should be applied for by the proponent as required (MME).

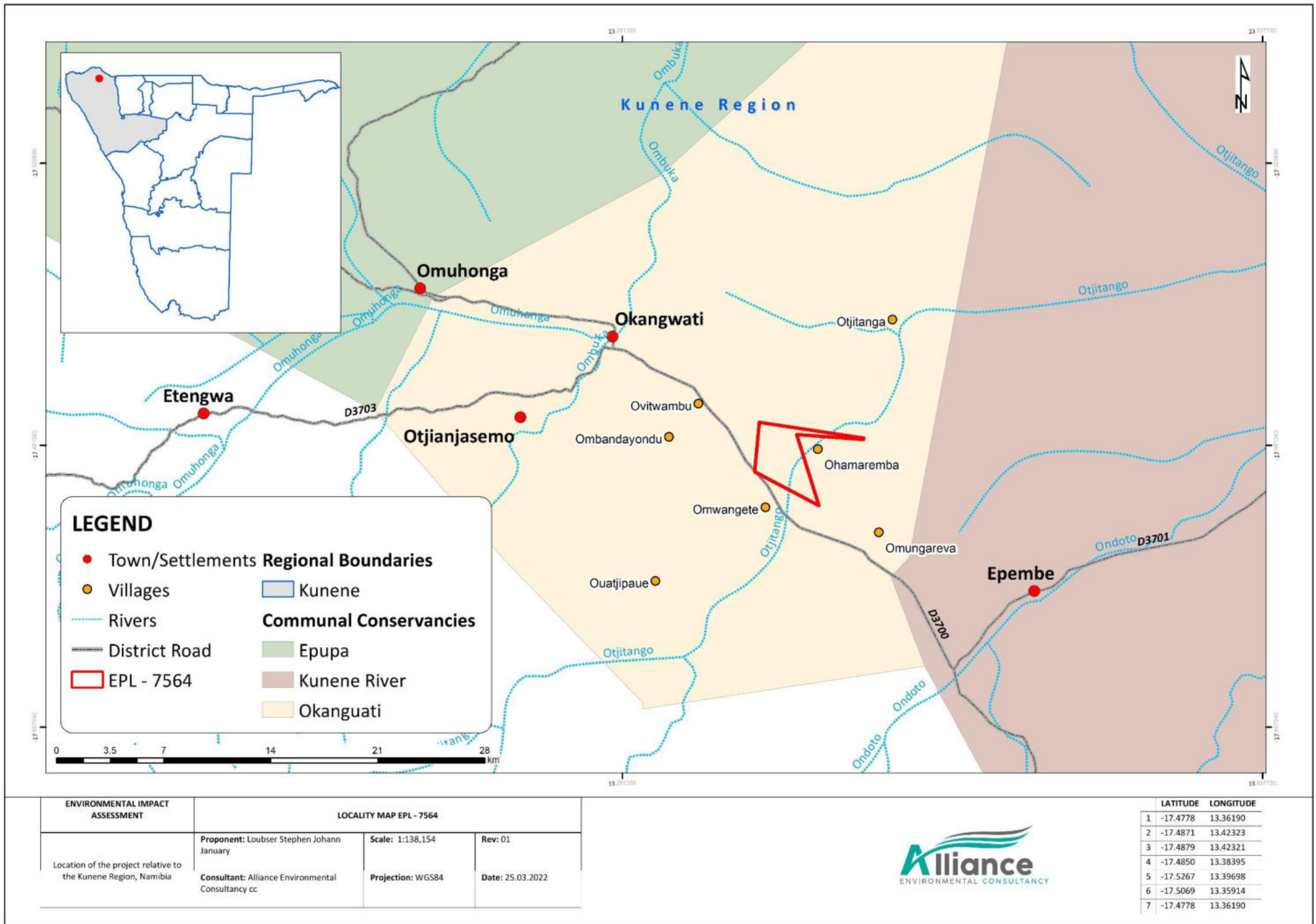


Figure 1 – Locality map and infrastructure of the proposed project

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

In terms of the Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2012, the project triggers listed activities that cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). An environmental clearance application will be submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) as the competent authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) as the issuing authority of the decision made before the commencement of the anticipated project activities.

The provision of the listed activities are as follows:

MINING AND QUARRYING ACTIVITIES

3.1 The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a license, right, or other forms of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right, or any other form of authorization in terms of Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992.

3.2 Other forms of mining or extraction of natural resources whether regulated by law or not.

3.3 Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities.

FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

4.1 The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorization in term of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE TREATMENT, HANDLING AND STORAGE

9.1 The manufacturing, storage, handling, or processing of a hazardous substance defined in the Hazardous Substances Ordinance, 1974.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Alliance Environmental Consultancy CC (AEC) (hereinafter referred to as consultant) is an independent consultant developed to assist clients to meet environmental legislative requirements, relevant standards and uphold environmental safety throughout project developments and operation. We assess and monitor the social and environmental impacts of projects related to biomass, mining, energy, tourism, and other sectors. Our wide range of capabilities, disciplines, and services are fundamentally based on proactively delivering advice and solutions with the outlook of sustainability. This is done by awarding our clients the responsibility and opportunity to make unique differences in their industries. The consultant was assisted by Ms. Lydia Kapolo who is an intern. The detailed CV of the team is presented in Appendix A.

4. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1. List of applicable laws and legislations

A list of legislation that is applicable to the proposed project is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: List of applicable laws and legislations

LAW	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990	<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 –</p> <p>"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 utilization 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>
Environmental Management Act (2007) - Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	<p>The purpose of the Act is 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 coordinated 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. 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>
Water Act 54 of 1956	<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</p>

LAW	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land reform (MAWLR)	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. water permits will also be required to abstract groundwater as well as for "water works".
Forest Act 12 of 2001 - Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	<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>
Hazardous Substance Ordinance 14 of 1974 Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS)	Provisions for hazardous waste are amended in this act as it provides "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"
Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance 11 of 1976.	This regulation sets out principles for the prevention of the pollution of the atmosphere and for matters incidental thereto. 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

LAW	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS)	and Part V outlines provisions for Atmospheric pollution by gases emitted by vehicles.
The Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	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.
Soil Conservation Act, No. 76 of 1969 and the Soil Conservation Amendment Act, No. 38 of 1971	The act makes provision for the prevention and control of soil erosion and the protection, improvement and conservation of soil and vegetation
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)	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 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 under which provisions are made in chapter 4. Chapter 5 of the act improvises on the protection of employees from unfair labour practice.
Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act 33 of 1992 and special regulations	Sections 50, 52, 54, 57 and 130 of this Act sets out provisions for environmental management for activities arising from mineral, Exploration and exploitation of mineral resources
Affirmative Action (Employment) Act No. 29 of 1998	Fair employment practice

LAW	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
Regional Councils Act (Act No. 22 of 1992)	<p>The Regional Councils Act legislates the establishment of Regional Councils that are responsible for the planning and coordination of regional policies and development.</p> <p>The main objective of this Act is to initiate, supervise, manage, and evaluate development in the regions.</p>
Traditional Authority Act (Act No. 25 of 2000)	<p>Namibian legislation recognizes both statutory and customary forms of governance. The Traditional Authorities Act recognizes Traditional Authorities (TAs), as the customary leadership of traditional communities as legal entities.</p> <p>The primary functions of these authorities are to promote peace and welfare amongst the community members, as well as to supervise and ensure the observance of the customary law of that community by its members.</p> <p>The Act also stipulates that TAs should ensure that natural resources are used on a sustainable basis that conserves the ecosystem. The implications of this Act are that TAs must be fully involved in the planning of land use and development for their area. It is the responsibility of the TA's customary leaderships, the Chiefs, to exercise control on behalf of the state and the residents in their designated area.</p>
Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy for Sustainable Development and Environmental Conservation of 1995	Prescribes Environmental Impact Assessments for any developments with potential negative impacts on the Environment
Nature Conservation Amendment Act 5 of 1996	To provide for an economically based system of sustainable management and utilization of game in communal areas
Draft Pollution and Waste Management Bill (1999)	Protection for particular species, resources or components of the environment

LAW	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
Convention on Desertification of 1994	Combating desertification and mitigation of the effects of drought
National Heritage Act 27 of 2004 Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MEAC)	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

Table 2 - International law to which Namibia is a signatory

INTERNATIONAL LAW TO WHICH NAMIBIA IS A SIGNATORY
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer - 1985
Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer - 1987
The Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal – 1989
The Rotterdam convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade – 1989
The Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biological Diversity - 1992
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - 1992

4.2. Key Regulators / Competent Authorities

The 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.

Table 3: Agencies regulating environmental protection in Namibia.

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITY
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	Issue of Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) based on the review and approval of the Environmental Assessments (EA) reports comprising Environmental Scoping and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared in accordance with the Environmental Management Act (2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2012
Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)	Competent authority. The national legislation governing minerals prospecting and mining activities in Namibia fall within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) as the Competent Authority (CA) responsible for granting authorisations. The Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act No.33 of 1992 approves and regulates mineral rights in relation to exploration, reconnaissance, prospecting, small scale mining, mineral exploration, large-scale mining, and transfers of mineral licences.

4.3. Permits

Some permits related to exploration activities are listed in Table 3.

Table 4: Applicable permits to the proposed project

PERMITS/CERTIFICATES	ACTIVITY	VALIDITY
Fuel Installation Certificate	Regulates the amount of fuel product in possession	3 months (temporary)/ permanent
Forestry Permits	Regulates the forest species to be cleared.	Temporary.

5. PROJECT MOTIVATION/RATIONALE

Mining activities in Namibia is the biggest contributor to the country's revenue and one of the largest economic sectors in the country. Although during exploration activities there are limited social benefits associated with the project, the following are the possible benefits of the proposed project activities:

- Contributions to annual license fees to the government through the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME).
- Payments of lease agreements and services rendered.
- Provisional contracting opportunity for companies interested in mineral explorations are carried out throughout the mineral prospecting phase, which might take several years.
- Provision of contractual employment opportunities.
- Increase in knowledge on the subsurface which then contributes to development, and geoscience research.
- Contribute to the socio-economic development of the local area and region, even more, should viable discoveries be made. Direct capital investment into Kunene Region.

6. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and EIA Regulations, alternatives considered should be analyzed. This is to ensure that during the design evolution and decision-making process, potential environmental impacts, costs, and technical feasibility have been considered, which leads to the best option(s) being identified.

6.1. Site/location

Minerals Occurrence Location: Several economic deposits are known to exist in various locations of Namibia, some of which have been explored by various companies throughout the years. As part of the license, the proponent proposes to explore / prospect for potential economic minerals occurrences in this specific EPL. There are no alternative locations considered for explorations.

6.2. Infrastructure

Access Roads – The Proponent will use the already existing external and internal road networks during the first phases of the project, should any new access be created, it will be done with the permission of landowners/land custodians and MEFT.

Equipment and infrastructure – The equipment and infrastructure options considered by the proponent are deemed sufficient at this stage of the project. However, in the world of revolving technology, the proponent may opt to employ other improved equipment/infrastructure in the future when deemed necessary in order to maximize the project output.

6.3. Water supply

During the exploration activities water will be brought from the nearest town/village. The alternative is to use existing boreholes or do a hydro search to drill a new borehole.

6.4. Power supply

Power will be sourced from a diesel generator; the alternative is to Install photovoltaic solar panels at a later stage.

6.5. No go Alternatives

The “no go” alternative implies that the status quo remains, and nothing happens. Should the proposal to explore on the license be discontinued, none of the potential impacts (positive and negative) identified would occur. If the proposed project is to be discontinued, the current land use for the proposed site will remain unchanged.

The key losses that may never be realized if the proposed project does not go ahead include:

- Lost opportunity for foreign direct investment.
- Loss of potential income to local and national government through land lease fees, license lease fees and various tax structures.
- Socio-economic benefits such as skills acquisition to local community members, borehole upgrades, etc. would be not realized.

Considering the above losses, the “no-action/go” alternative was not considered a viable option in the interest of the directly affected community and the proponent.

7. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The scope of this assessment is to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts emanating from the proposed activity. Data has been compiled by making use of literature, the information provided by the proponent, and from the project sites visit.

The Potential environmental and social impacts will be identified, and mitigation measures and recommendations provided for in the Environmental Management Plan.

The environmental scoping assessment report aims to address the following:

- i. Identification of potential positive and negative environmental impacts.
- ii. Evaluation of the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts
- iii. Identify a range of management actions that could mitigate the potential adverse impacts to required levels.
- iv. Consult relevant stakeholders regarding the proposed development.
- v. Provide sufficient information to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism to make an informed decision regarding the proposed project.

8. EIA APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The EIA and EMP methodology applied for this project will take into account the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2012, and the Environmental Management Act (EMA) Act No. 7 of 2007. The process followed is detailed below and in Figure 2.

PHASE 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING

Project initiation and registration with the Competent Authority

- This involves meeting with the client and discussing timeframes, logistics and project descriptions.
- Basic desktop site Baseline analysis and compilation of a Background Information Document (BID)
- Project registration with Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to be done on the EIA online portal system.
- After the project is registered, the environmental Commissioner will advise whether a full EIA or Scoping assessment is required for the project.

PHASE 2: ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT INCLUDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCESS (PPP)

- An extensive desktop baseline study and review for the area will be undertaken using remote sensing to identify and describe potential sites that are likely to be impacted by the project before on ground site verification.
- The consultants will conduct a site visit during this stage to form a basis for the assessment and determine the real sensitivity of the surrounding biophysical and socio-economic environment.
- The information obtained during the site visit will be supplemented by a literature review and will be used by the environmental consultant to: (a) Determine the actual/real risks associated with the project activities, (b) Provide practical mitigation measures to minimize the risks; and (c) Make recommendations for further studies, should it be required.

Public Consultation Process and stakeholder engagement (21 Days)

- Public consultation is an important stage of the EIA process as it ensures full consultation and public involvement. The public consultation process begins with usually newspaper advertisement (Minimum two (2) local newspapers twice for two consecutive weeks), site notices to be placed in easily accessible places around the project area/town, radio announcements, when necessary, through respective constituency offices (especially in remote areas where newspapers might not reach on time) and then public meetings. This is done to provide the public a chance of getting involved in the process, provide their views and input regarding to the proposed activities in the area.
- During this stage, potential stakeholders (local governments, constituency offices, farmers etc.) are identified and made aware of the project. All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) contact details will be collected for future communications related to the project progress.
- The Background Information Document (BID) prepared in phase 1 will be shared with all identified and registered I&APs during this period. The BID usually contains summarized project information such as the project description of activities, project motivation, potential impacts, and EIA process followed. This document will be shared via emails or delivered in hardcopy to the relevant/applicable parties. Other social media platforms such as WhatsApp will also be utilized in this case.
- All comments, inputs, issues and/ or concerns raised by I&APs during the process will be recorded for consideration in the environmental assessment report and development of the EMP.

PHASE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING – ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT REPORT (ESAR) AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)

- This stage will include data reduction and analysis using appropriate techniques to produce suitable project results for interpretation and discussion. This stage will entail consolidation of the findings in the form of a report that can be presented to the client for review and comments. An EMP will be drafted to mitigate and manage all impacts identified in the scoping report.

- After approval of the documents by the Client, the draft ESAR and EMP will be prepared for circulation to the public (I&APs) for comments over a period of 7 days.
- All comments are consolidated and included in the reports and the ESAR and EMP are finalized for submission to the competent authority (Ministry of Mines and Energy) and issuing authority (MEFT).
- The registered and identified I&APs will be informed that the final documents have been submitted to the authorities for decision making and that for any further comments, they can directly contact the DEA. Furthermore, the DEA provides another 14 days period for public participation on the online portal in this regard.

PHASE 4: FOLLOW-UP WITH THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY UNTIL FEEDBACK IS GRANTED

FIGURE 5: BELOW PROVIDES A SIMPLIFIED EIA PROCESS FLOWCHART

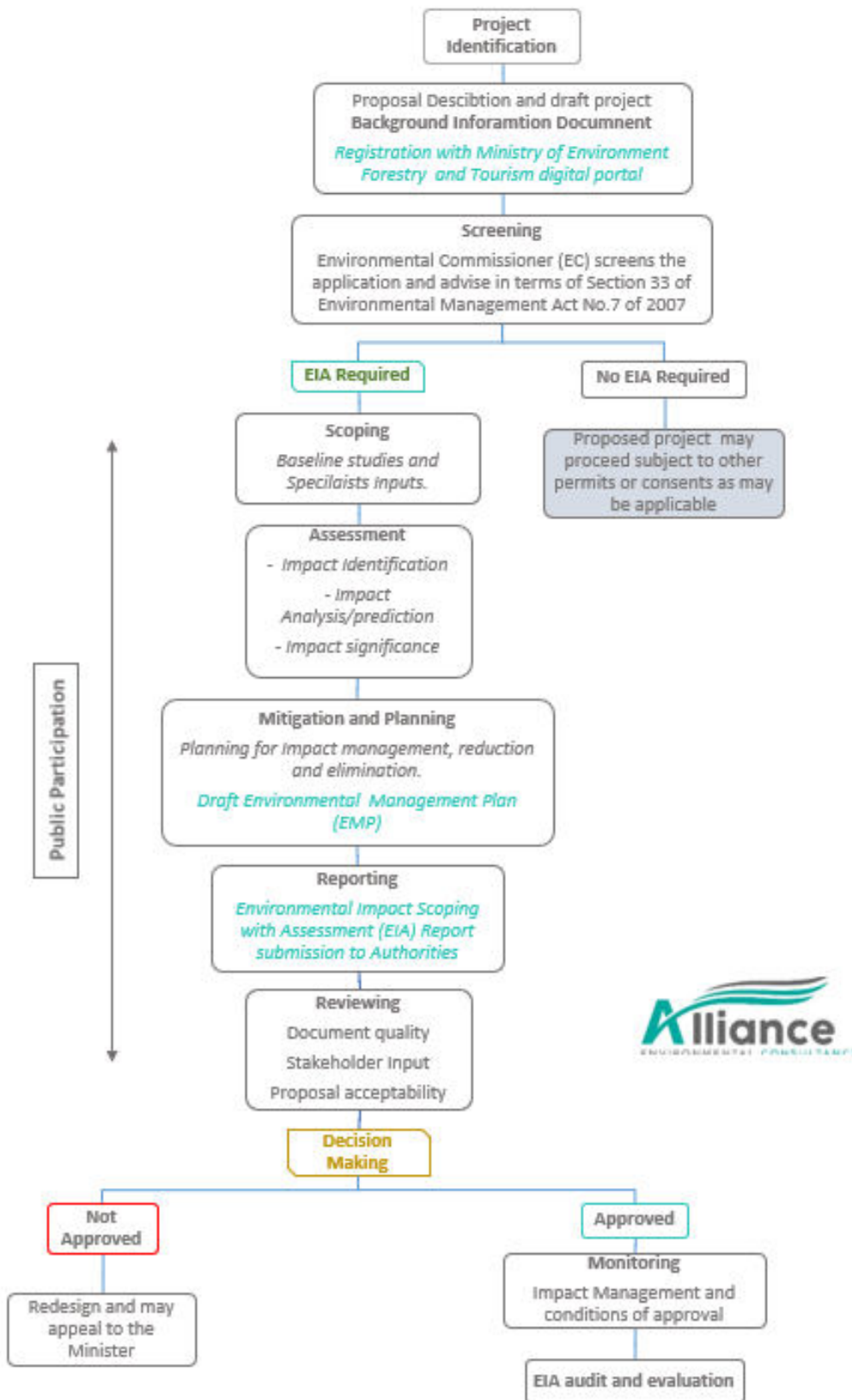


Figure 2 - EIA Flow Chart by AEC

9. BASELINE ENVIRONMENT/ STUDY AREA

9.1. Climate

9.1.1. Temperature

The climate of the Kunene Region is classified as semi-arid (tropical steppe) to very arid (desert). Maximum and minimum temperatures at Opuwo during the hottest and coldest months range between 34 to 36 °C and 6 to 11 °C, respectively. Kunene region is one of the warmest regions with high temperatures (warm and hot) throughout the year. Hot seasons in these areas last for almost 4 months, which is during September to early January and average daily temperatures being 34.4 °C (Figure 3). Throughout the year, the hottest month is October - November, temperatures here are higher than the country's average by 3.29%. Relative humidity in the Opuwo area ranges between 80 to 90% during the most humid months and between 10 and 20% during the least humid months. The average annual rates of evaporation in the Opuwo area range between 1,960 and 2,100 mm (Mendelsohn et al., 2009).

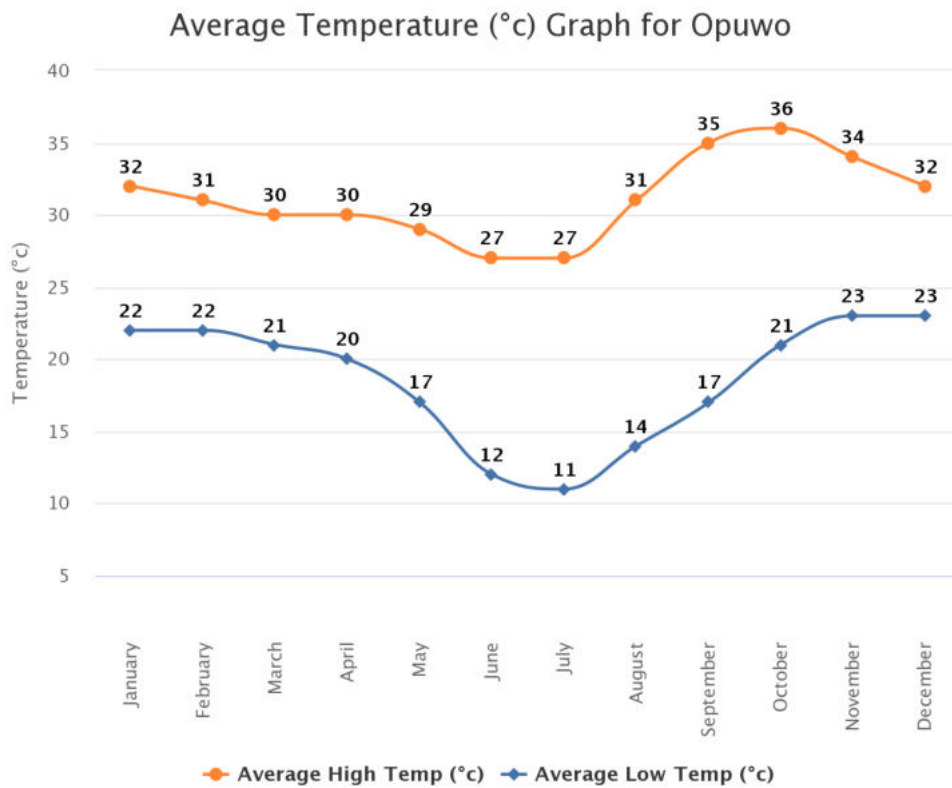


Figure 3 – Average high and low temperature for Opuwo (www.worldweraonline.com)

9.1.2. Rainfall

The mean annual precipitation (MAP) in Opuwo is approximately 312 mm/annum for the record period, with a maximum rainfall recorded of 837 mm/annum in 1963 and a minimum of 62 mm/annum in 1989 (SLR, 2015). The rainy season is between December and March, with the dry season from May to September (Figure 4). Precipitation increases from the west to the east of the Kunene Region and ranges between less than 50 mm (at the coast), 300 to 350 mm (at Opuwo), and 350 to 400 mm (at Ruacana, Omusati Region) per annum. Okangwati typically receives about 57 mm of precipitation and has 24.5% of rainy days annually (Ministry of Environment & Tourism, 2011).

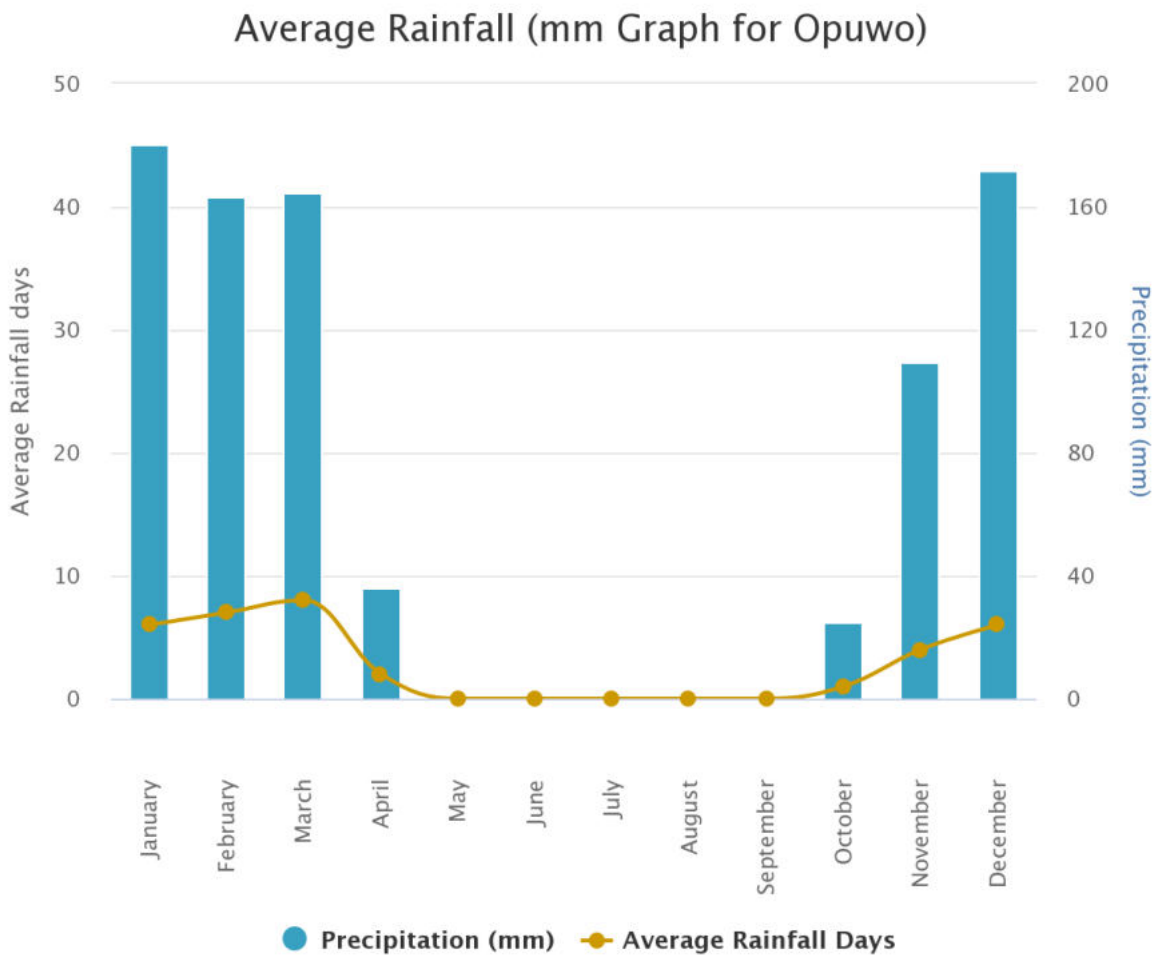


Figure 4 – Average rainfall in Opuwo (www.worldweratheonline.com)

9.1.3. Cloud cover

The average percentage of cloud cover in Opuwo fluctuates seasonal, with the clearest part of the year lasting for approximately 7 months and begins early April and ending early November. June is the clearest month of all. Early November towards early April marks the cloudiest part of the year with a duration of 5 months and the cloudiest month being January with an average of 635 overcast (SLR, 2016).

9.1.4. Wind

Wind experienced at any locality is highly reliant on local geography plus possibly other factors (direction, hourly and speed). The seasonal variability in the wind field is shown in Figure 5. The seasonal wind field is predominantly south-westerly and west-south-westerly winds during the summer months (Nov – Feb). During the autumn months (Mar – May), the westerly flow subsided with more frequent winds from the east and east-northeast. The maximum windspeed recorded for Opuwo in the figure below ranges from 5 – 6.9mph western wind.

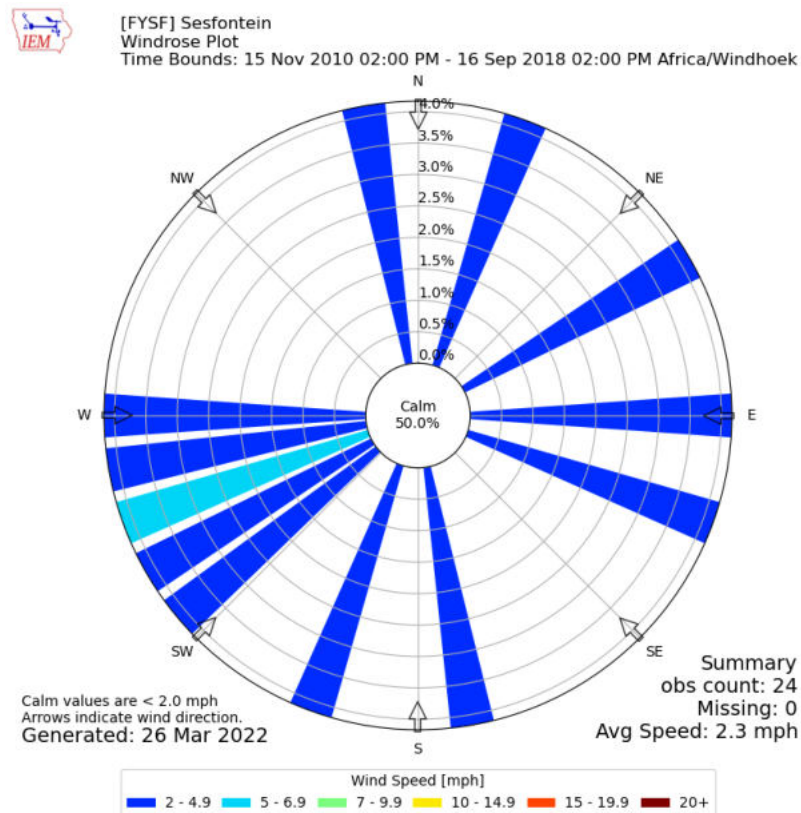


Figure 5 – Windrose for Sesfontein November 2010 to September 2018 (Aiowa weather, 2022)

9.2. Biophysical Environment

9.3.1. Flora

The Atlas of Namibia and other secondary sources provided the necessary information, as there was no fieldwork conducted for this aspect of the study. The study area lies within the Kaokoveld that falls under the Mopane Savanna vegetation biome as defined by (Gies, 1998) as presented in Figure 6. The vegetation type in the area is western high lands which is subsequently dominated by various shrubs and tree species. Generally, Flora in the Kaokoveld is relatively under collected (as the area is highly inaccessible) and the flora of especially the high mountain ranges is largely unknown. The Kaokoveld as a whole is famous for its floristically diversity area with high levels of plant endemism ascribed to diversity in soils, topography and climate (Craven, etc., 2006). Should mining be contemplated a specialist botanical study would be called for.

According to Mendelsohn (2002), overall plant species richness in the general area is low to medium (approx. 300 to 400 spp.). The vegetation within the study site was found to be dominated by red thorn acacia (*Acacia Reficiens*), mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*) and purple pod terminalia (*Terminalia prunioides*). Various Commiphora species, Moringa ovalifolia, *Sterculia africana* and *Sesamothamnus guerichii* can also be found in the general area.

Some species of conservation concern which may potentially occur in the general area are: Camel-thorn (*Acacia erioloba*); Bird-plum (*Berchemia discolor*); Shepherd's tree (*Boscia albitrunca*); Mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*); Leadwood (*Combretum imberbe*); *Elaeodendron transvaalensis*; Wild ebony (*Euclea pseudebebus*); Namaqua rock-fig (*Ficus cordata*); Sycamore fig (*Ficus sycomorus*); *Kirkia acuminata*; Ringwood tree (*Maerua schinzii*); Weeping wattle (*Peltophorum africanum*); Tamboti (*Spirostachys Africana*); and African star-chestnut (*Sterculia africana*). It is important to note that *Elaeodendron transvaalensis*, *Kirkia acuminata*, and *Peltophorum africanum* are not protected under the (Namibian) Forest Regulations 2015: Forest Act 12 of 2001.

Commiphora multijuga and *Moringa ovalifolia* may also be present in the area and they are expected in low numbers. Mopane trees are prevalent in this habitat, and it is protected due to its high value to humans and their livestock. The following tree species are protected under the (Namibian) Forest Regulations 2015 and may occur in the general project areas: Bushman

poison (*Adenium boehmianum*); Worm-cure Albizia (*Albizia anthelmintica*); various Commiphora species; Kobas (*Cyphostemma currorii*); Blue Kobas (*Cyphostemma juttae*); Kaoko Kobas (*Cyphostemma uter*); Owambo Wooden-banana (*Entandrophragma spicatum*); Namib Coral-tree (*Erythrina decora*); Anaboom (*Faidherbia albida*); Kaoko kirkia (*Kirkia dewinteri*); Bottle Tree (*Pachypodium lealii*); Marula (*Sclerocarya birrea*); Kaoko Sesame-bush (*Sesamothamnus benguellensis*); Large-leaved Sterculia (*Sterculia quinqueloba*); Wild Tamarisk (*Tamarix usneoides*); and Buffalo-thorn (*Ziziphus mucronata*) (see <http://treeatlas.biodiversity.org.na/>).

Some bush clearing may be required during the 2nd and 3rd phase of exploration where access roads, drill pads and bulk sample sites are chosen. The clearing of any vegetation would not be on the scale, which triggers a full EIA, but permits to fell trees and clear bush for exploration will require a Forestry Permit. In addition to this, vegetation clearing restrictions within 100m of rivers must be taken into account as outlined in the draft regulations of the Water Resource Management Act (Rothauge 2017). Any relaxation of this rule needs to confirm and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR).

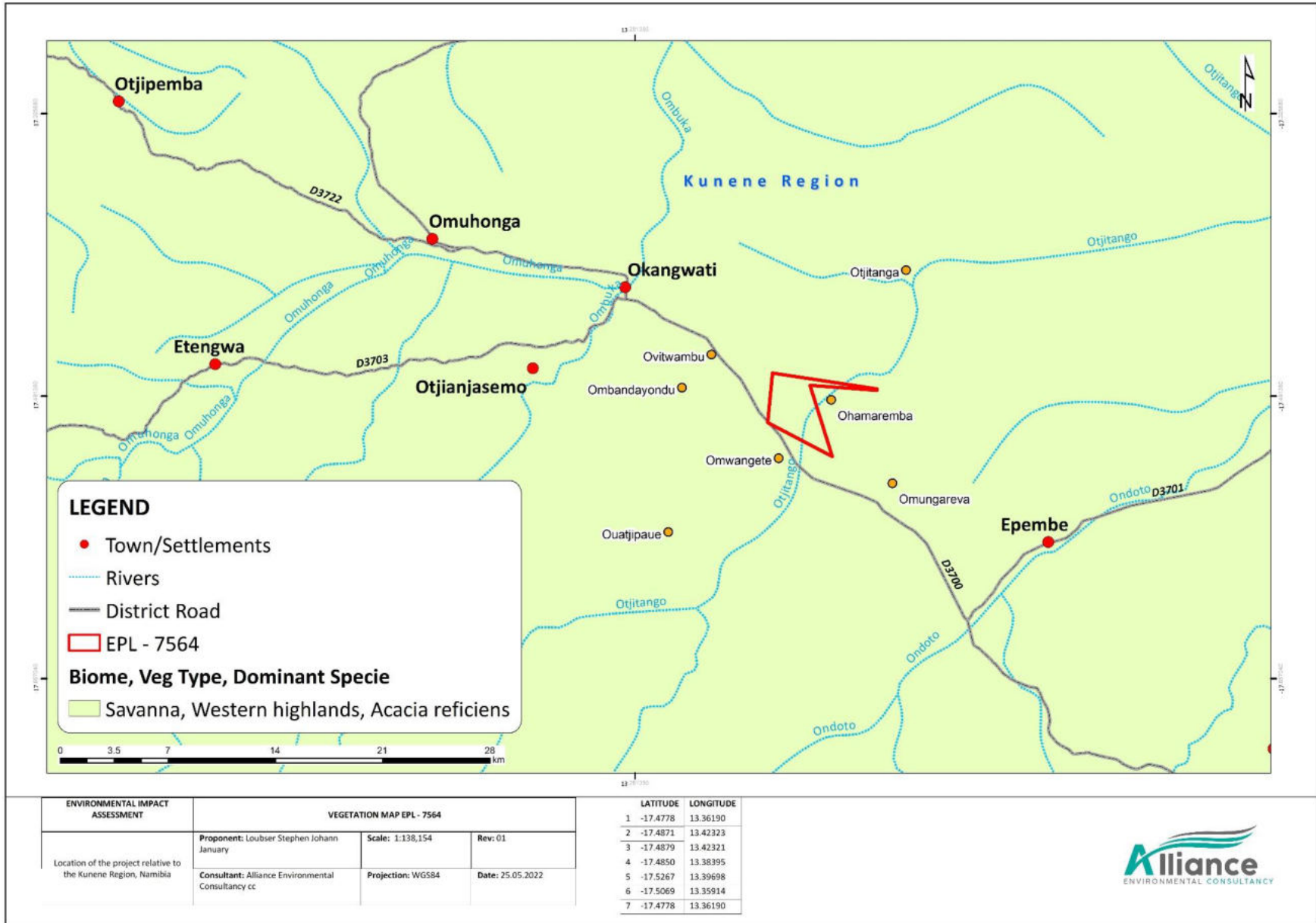


Figure 6 - Vegetation map of the project area.

9.3.2. Soil

Due to the extremely low rainfall in the Kunene Region, soils are relatively undeveloped. The pH-values of the soils are mainly in the alkaline range due to the strong calcareous influences. The soils have a low organic content, and together with the low rainfall, soils are of little value to rain-fed crop agriculture. The following soils maybe found in the area sands and loams (Mopane Shrubland); and loams (extreme southern parts with Mopane Shrubland and Karstveld landscapes). Dolomite sands are found in the Karstveld landscape (National Planning Commission (NPC), 2007a; b). According to Mendelsohn et al. (2009), the following dominant soils may be found in the Kaoko Project area: Cambisols, Chromic Cambisols and Rock Outcrops Figure 7.

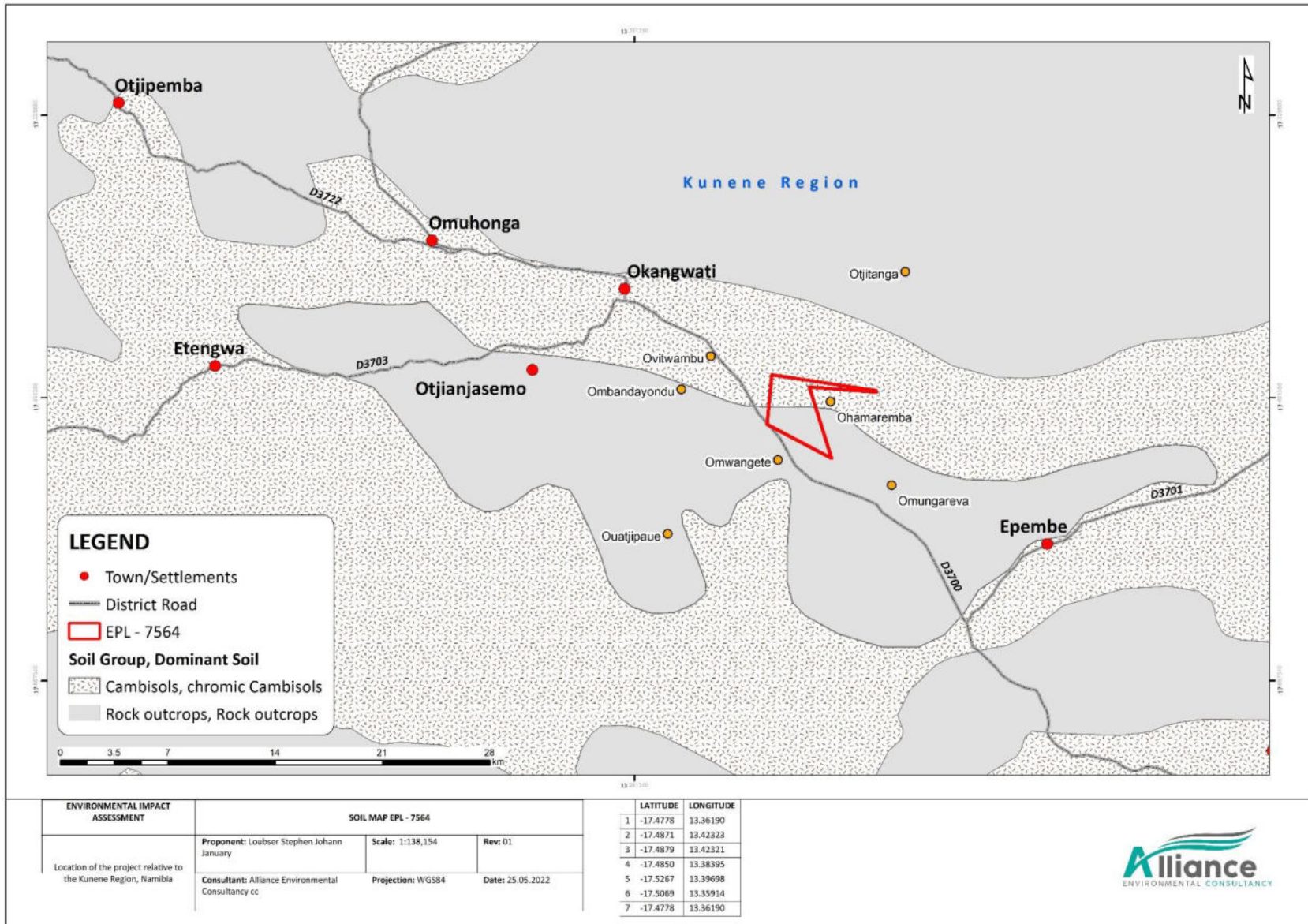


Figure 7 - Soil map of the project area.

9.3.3. Fauna

No fieldwork was carried out; hence the fauna data presented in this section is solely from existing literature. The veld is viewed as a relatively high mammal, reptile and intermediate amphibian diverse (Mendelsohn et al. 2002). There too is a diversity of birds' diversity that occurs near the area which ranges in high numbers of species due to the dominance of mopani trees in the surrounding, the mopane worm (*Gonimbrasia belina*), is likely to be seasonally common in this habitat, which is a food source for people. Another important food producing invertebrates in this habitat are the mopane bees (*Meniponula sp*), which may be existing in extensive quantities.

The area, it is well-thought-out to be a high reptile variety area and approximately more than 15 species may hypothetically occur, the African rock python (*Pythonnataensis*) and the leopard tortoise (*Geochelone paradalis*). Mammals in this area ranges in numerous numbers of species and indigenoussness ranging from 9-10 species. Those that could possibly occur in the area comprise of types considered almost vulnerable like the Commersons Leafnosed Bat (*Hipposideros vittatus*), Angolan epauletted fruit bat (*Epomophorous angolensis*). In Namibia there are a wide-spread of, Hartmanns mountan zebra (*Equus zebra hartmannnae*), black-faced impala (*Aepyceros melampus petersi*), giraffe (*Giraffa Camelopardalis*), black mongoose (*Herpestes flavescens*), bushveld sengi (*Elephant intufi*), mountain ground squirrel (*Xerus princeps*), endangered black rhinos (*Diceros bicornis*) may also possibly occur in this area, cape fox (*Vulpes chama*), bat-eared fox (*Octocyon megalitis*), African elephant (*Laxodonto africana*), southern African wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and savanna pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*) (Strohbach, 2001). There is also a group of near-thread animals likely to be seen such as the fruit bat (*Epomophorous angolensis*), brown hyaena (*Parahyaena brunne*), and white rhinoceros (Griffin, 2003).

Table 5 - General Fauna Data, (Mendelsohn, 2002)

Mammal Diversity	91 - 105 Species
Bird Diversity	141 - 170 Species
Reptile Diversity	71 - 80 Species
Frog Diversity	8 - 11 Species

9.2.1. Hydrogeology and Geology

Large areas of Kunene region have very little or no ground water as well as no access to permanent water sources. This means that there is a shortage of water and more to be expected due to climatic conditions and their projections. The Kunene River serves as water source of those residing nearby for agricultural use. Most locals in the Okangwati village have running water, some also rely on borehole as water sources. The area lies within the Kunene South groundwater basin. The Northern Namib and Kaokoveld groundwater region generally have a low groundwater potential and due to the low number of boreholes and few government investigations on groundwater, knowledge of aquifers in the area is sparse. Alluvial groundwater is obtained from boreholes and hand-dug wells in the ephemeral rivers. There is a presence of tributaries in the area as seen in Figure 9 minor river Otjitango runs to the southeastern section of the EPL.

Kunene Region is known to have virgin landscapes of physical geology in the entire country. The natural mountainous lands, rocks, minerals, soil, springs and rivers signify the regions valued resources. Springs, soil, underground aquifers and perennial rivers have a key influence on agricultural production and tourism in the region. Kunene Region is paradise of physical creations dating back to 250 million years, with stimulating spectaculars rock formations that are clearly exposed. The region contains countless diversity of rock formations, most of them exposed in open plains, landscapes of valleys, escarpments mountains. The Epupa Metamorphic complex constitutes the southwestern margin of the Congo Craton and is exposed in a steeply to mountainous terrain of Northwest Namibia, bordering the Kunene River and extending into southern Angola. The Epupa basement rocks on EPL 7564 comprise of a suite of para- and orthogenesis, metasedimentary, mafic, granitic, and volcanic rocks of upper amphibolite facies. Figure 8.

This area is also bounded by a belt of metamorphic schists. Rock development grants some mining abilities that could benefit the region economically.

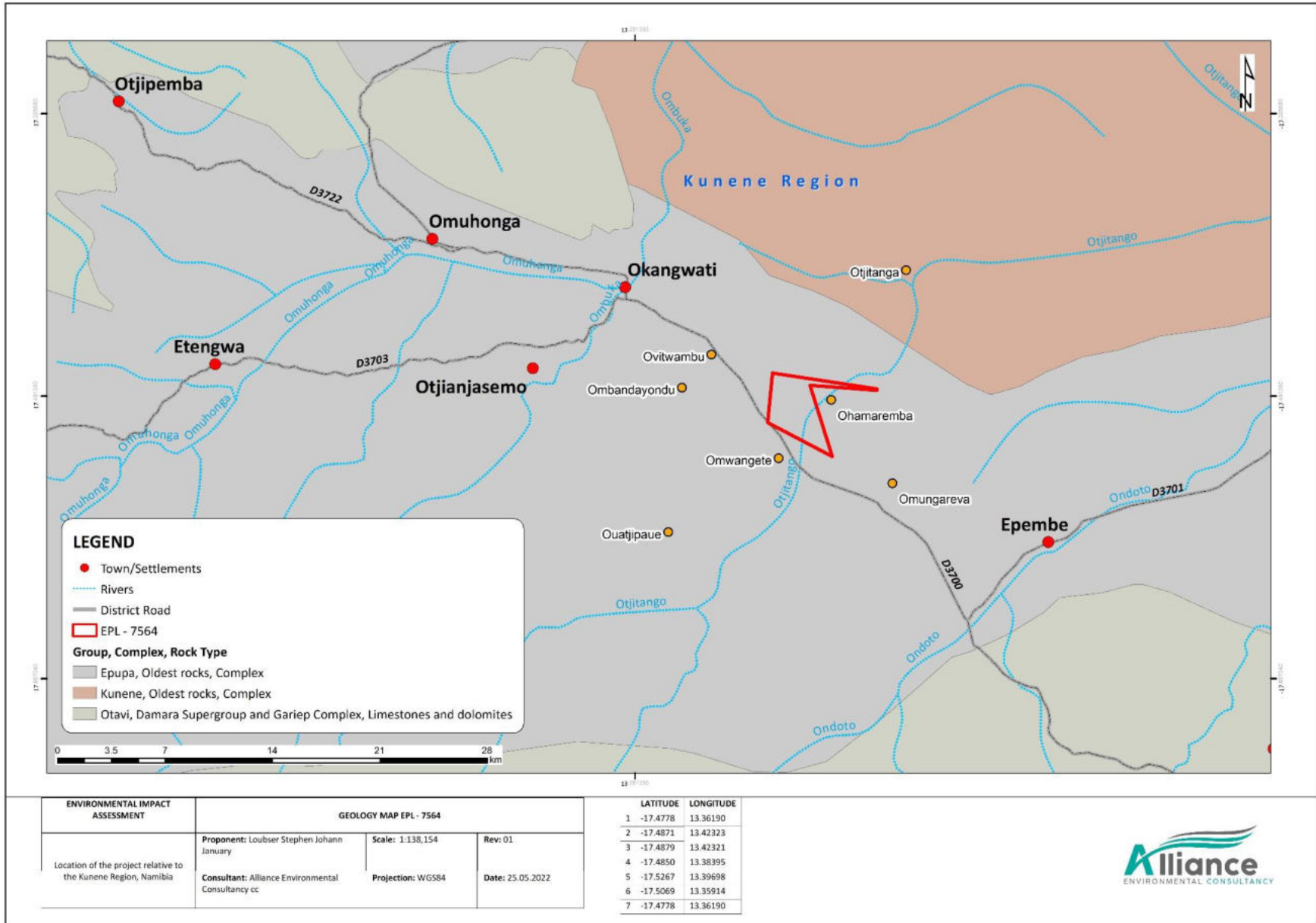


Figure 8 - Geology map of the project area.

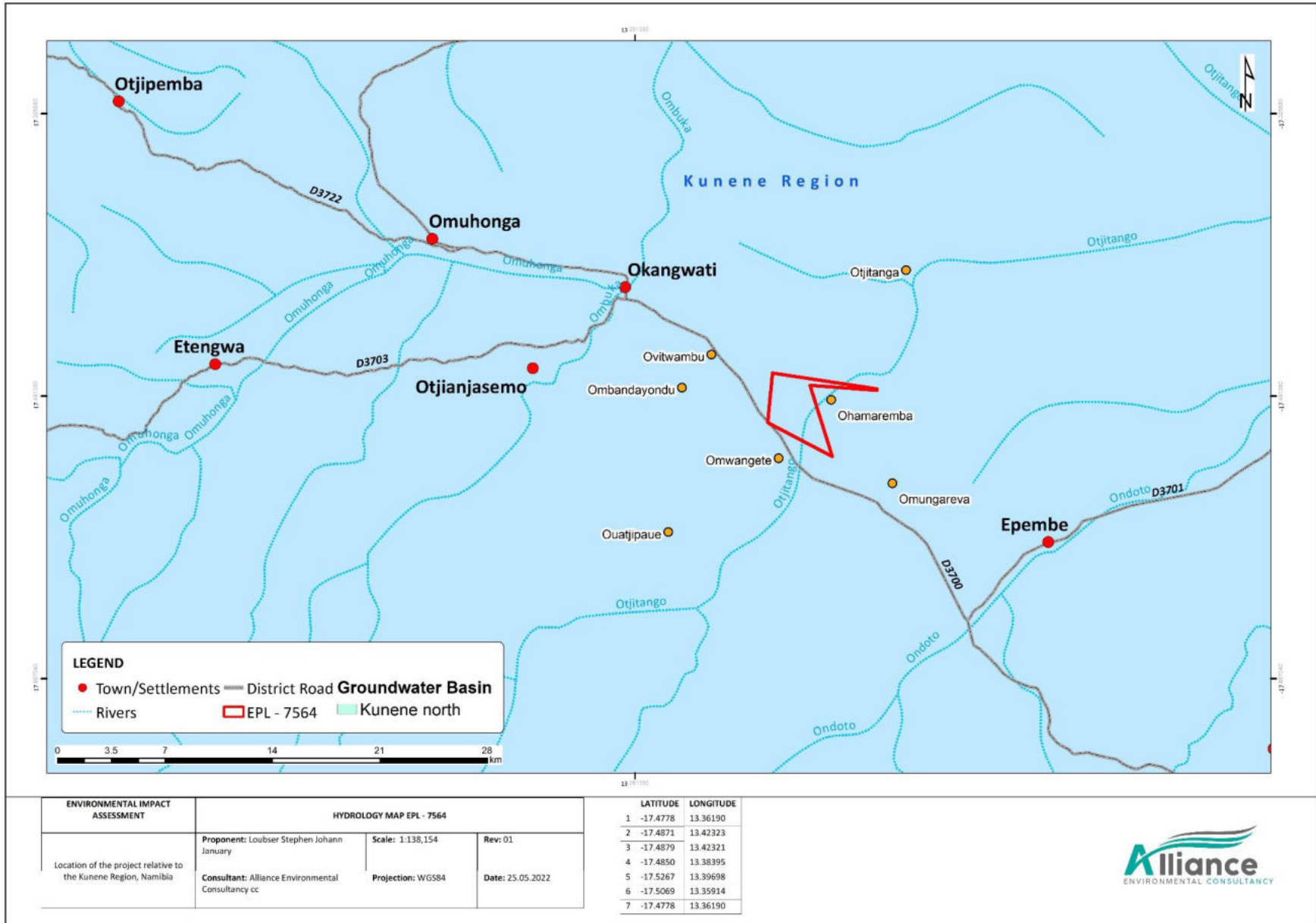


Figure 9 - Hydrology map of the project area

9.3. Socio-Economic setting

9.3.1. Regional Profile

Kunene Region is geographically located in the Northwestern part of Namibia and covers a range of biomass or landscapes; this region is very mountainous. The name Kunene is derived from the Kunene River that borders Namibia and Angola. The region's administrative capital is Opuwo. The region also borders Omusati region to the east and southeast of the Etosha National Park. In the south the region borders Erongo and Otjozondjupa region. The region covers an approximate area of 115,293km² of the total Namibian land. After //Kharas region, Kunene is the second largest region which is home to roughly 86,856 residents (43 234 females and 43 603 males (Census 2011) which signifies 4% of the Namibian population. The region has constituencies which are Kamanjab, Outjo, Khorixas, Epupa, Opuwo and Sesfontein (Census, 2011). This region is also classified as the least beneficiary from resource distribution in the country.

According to Census (2011), the most commonly spoken languages at home in Kunene region are Otjiherero (42% of households) and Nama/Damara (36%). Literacy rate is 65% for those who are 15 years and older, literacy rate is low in rural Opuwo due to a high number of indigenous residents who are not exposed to any education. However, in the urban part of the town, literacy rate increases to 75% (females 72,5%, males 76,4%). People living with disability 4%. Main sources of income in households are farming 32%, wages and salaries 41%, cash remittance 5%, business (non-farming) 8% and pension. Many households in this region also highly rely on drought relief assistance (15%) (NSA, 2017). A few communities also rely on incomes from conservancies they formed, through good wildlife management that attracts tourists and other activities such as trophy hunting. About 12%. 67% of households have safe drinking water, 63% have no toilet facilities and 32% use wood/charcoal for cooking (Census, 2011).

9.3.2. Locality Profile

Opuwo is the capital of the Kunene Region in northwestern Namibia and heads majority of the administrative offices in the region which provides services to its people. This town is located about 720km north-northwest from the capital city and has a population of approximately 27 272 inhabitants (13 896 female and 13 376 males) (Census, 2011). Opuwo is situated at the intersection of the C41 and C43. There is a small airfield in town (airport). This

town holds the Regional Health Directorate office, a state hospital and a health center situated in Okangwati, a vocational training center (COSDEC) which provides vocational training to locals, schools,

Tourism is a key economic sector for this region, as it has ancient traditional diversity and practices, the region lacks extensive modernization, wildlife and also its phenomenal landscape, these are all aspects that plays a major role in tourism. Major attractions in this region include Ovahimba and Ovaherero settlements, Epupa Falls, the ancient rock engravings (White lady) of Twyfelfontein, the World heritage site of the Petrified Forest (Moilanen, 2015).

Other than tourism, there is a diverse platform of economic activities, inclusive of agriculture which primarily focuses on communal livestock farming and trade. Subsistence farming is the most common type of agricultural activity seen in this region. The Ovahimba community subsequently rely on their livestock, they are predominantly livestock farmers who breed cattle, sheep and goats. They also grow and farm rain-fed crops such as maize and millet, in their thorn or branches field to protect their crops. The constituency is also known to be rich in minerals (gems/precious natural stones, copper and iron ore, and precious metals), which will hopefully be exploited and processed in order to create jobs for locals. Unemployment rate is 36% and employed is 64% (Census, 2011).

10. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

10.1. Public participation

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). During the public participation process, I&APs will be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of the reports, during the specified comment periods.

Good consultation helps foster genuine and positive relationships with mutual respect, shared concerns and objectives between the company pursuing the development and the community. The public participation facilitator's role is to facilitate that process of dialogue to ensure there is transparency and accountability in decision-making and public confidence in the proposed project and its management.

10.1.1. Adverts

Public notices were placed in the following newspapers for two consecutive weeks on the 28th of April 2022 and the 03rd of May 2022: Appendix C provides Tear sheets of the adverts.

- The Republikein newspaper on the 28 April 2022 and 03 May 2022
- The Allgemeine Zeitung on the 28 April 2022 and 03 May 2022
- The Sun newspaper on the 28 April 2022 and 03 May 2022

10.1.2. Site notice

Site notices were also placed on the following locations also presented in Appendix D:

- Opuwo Spar supermarket
- Kunene regional council
- Opuwo Town council

10.1.3. Stakeholder participation and recommendation

No input / comments have been received during this consultation period. Mr Tjiposa Tjihenu who is the headman of Ohamaremba village was contacted via phone call to brief him about the project on the 03rd of May 2022. Emphasis was provided that this is only an exploration program and when the operation phase commences, they will be alerted in due time and possible public meeting will be arranged for then. Due to unavailability of emails and postal addresses, written communication was not utilized. In the event that the ECC is granted the proponent shall ensure ongoing consultation with all relevant affected parties for access to land and other resources.

11. EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

11.1. Assessment procedure

The purpose of this section is to assess and identify the most pertinent environmental impacts by describing certain quantifiable aspects of these impacts and to provide possible mitigation measures to minimize the magnitude of the impacts that are possibly deriving from the various activities that constitute the proposed base and rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals, and precious metals exploration activities on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) 7564 by the proponent.

The identification of potential impacts included impacts that may occur during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. The assessment of impacts includes direct, indirect as well as cumulative impacts. In order to identify potential impacts (both positive and negative) it is important that the nature of the proposed projects is well understood so that the impacts associated with the projects can be assessed.

The process of identification and assessment of impacts includes:

- Determining the current environmental conditions in sufficient detail to establish a baseline against which impacts can be identified and measured.
- Determining future changes to the environment that will occur in a case where the activity does not proceed.
- Develop an understanding of the activity in detail to understand its consequences; and
- The identification of significant impacts which are likely to occur if the activity is undertaken.

The following potential impacts on the environment during construction and operation activities have been identified:

- **Dust & Noise**
Due to the increase movement of vehicles, trucks and other operational machineries.
- **Health & Safety**
from the handling of equipment and use of machinery as well as potentially contracting diseases linked to exposure to dust.
- **Visual**

Changes to the aesthetic appeal of the area due to presence of people, vehicles and machinery. Visible changes to habitats due to human activities.

– **Waste**

Resulting from maintenance work performed on the machinery as well as littering in the area include packaging from food or other products and consumables.

Soil pollution including petrochemical spills from vehicles (bakkies), water trucks, diesel operated generator as well as the trailer mounted diesel tank for fuel storage.

– **Ecological**

Potential removal of minimal vegetation to allow project activities and erect temporary site shade structures and prefabricated container office onsite during field work and exploration operations. Habitat disturbance due to drilling, excavation and increased flow of traffic.

– **Groundwater and surface water**

Due to inadequate management of waste, discharge and infiltration of non-contained wastewater as well as potential spillages of drill fluid, lubrication or drilling that penetrates the ground water table. This may also be influenced by site operations such as maintenance activities or accidental fuel spills.

– **Topography**

Potential disturbance of top

– **Heritage & Socio-Economic**

Potential disturbance and damage to unforeseen archaeological or heritage sites during drilling and excavation activities and movements in the area.

– **Impact of poor communication**

Miscommunication may lead to negative insulence in the community towards the project. Increased movement in the surrounding area and inadequate deliverable of notice for exploration and or operational activities in the community may result in conflicts with landowners and the affected community.

The following methodology is applied to the predication and assessment of impacts and risks. Potential impacts and risks have been rated in terms of the direct, indirect, and cumulative where:

Status	Whether the impact/risk on the overall environment will be
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive - Environment overall will benefit from the impact/risk; • Negative - Environment overall will be adversely affected by the impact/risk; • Neutral - Environment overall not be affected.

Direct impacts	Impacts are directly caused by the activity and usually occur at the same time and place of the activity. These impacts are often related to the construction, operation or maintenance of an operation and are often obvious and quantifiable.
Indirect impacts	These types of impacts include all the potential impacts that are not evident immediately when the activity is carried out, or which occur at a different place due to the activity.
Cumulative impacts	Impacts that result from the incremental impact of the proposed activity on a common resource when added to the impacts of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future activities.

In addition to the above, the impact assessment methodology includes the following aspects:

Spatial Extent	The size of the area that will be affected by the impact:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site specific - Only within the site boundaries Local - limited to within 15 km of the area Regional - limited to ~100 km radius National - limited to within the borders of Namibia International - extending beyond Namibia's borders

Consequence	The anticipated consequence of the impact:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme - Environmental functions and processes are altered such that they permanently cease); • Severe - Environmental functions and processes are altered such that they temporarily or permanently cease); • Substantial - environmental functions and processes are altered such that they temporarily or permanently cease); • Moderate - Environment continues to function but in a modified manner); or • Slight - No natural systems/environmental functions, patterns, or processes are affected.

Duration	The timeframe during which the impact/risk will be experienced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very short term - instantaneous; • Short term - less than 1 year; • Medium term - 1 to 10 years; • Long term - The impact will occur for the project duration • Permanent - The impact will occur beyond the project decommissioning.

Reversibility of the Impacts	The extent to which the impacts/risks are reversible assuming that the project has reached the end of its life cycle (decommissioning phase)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes - High reversibility of impacts (impact is highly reversible at end of project life); • Partially - Moderate reversibility of impacts; or • No - Impacts are non-reversible (impact is permanent).

Using the criteria above, the impacts will further be assessed in terms of the following:

Probability	The probability of the impact/risk occurring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very likely; • Likely; • Unlikely; • Very unlikely; and • Extremely unlikely.

To determine the significance of the identified impact/risk, the consequence is multiplied by probability. This approach incorporates internationally recognized methods from the IPCC (2014) assessment of the effects of climate change and is based on an interpretation of existing information in relation to the proposed activity. The significance is then rated qualitatively as follows against a predefined set of criteria (i.e., probability and consequence) as indicated below:

		IMPACT = CONSEQUENCE X PROBABILITY				
PROBABILITY	Very Likely					Very High Impact
	Likely				High Impact	
	Unlikely			Moderate Impact		
	Very Unlikely		Low Impact			
	Extremely Unlikely	Very Low Impact				
			Slight	Moderate	Substantial	Severe

Where:

Significance	Will the impact cause a notable alteration of the environment?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low (5) - The risk/impact may result in very minor alterations of the environment and can be easily avoided by implementing appropriate mitigation measures and will not have an influence on decision-making. • Low (4) - The risk/impact may result in minor alterations of the environment and can be easily avoided by implementing appropriate mitigation measures, and will not have an influence on decision making. • Moderate (3) - The risk/impact will result in moderate alteration of the environment and can be reduced or avoided by implementing the appropriate mitigation measures and will only have an influence on the decision-making if not mitigated. • High (2) - The risk/impact will result in major alteration to the environment even with the implementation on the appropriate mitigation measures and will have an influence on decision making); and • Very high (1) - The risk/impact will result in very major alteration to the environment even with the implementation on the appropriate mitigation measures and will have an influence on decision making.

Confidence	The degree of confidence in predictions based on available information and specialist knowledge
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low - Based on the availability of specialist knowledge and other information• Medium - Based on the availability of specialist knowledge and other information• High - Based on the availability of specialist knowledge and other information

Impacts are evaluated for the construction and operation phases of the development. The assessment of impacts for the decommissioning phase is not presented in detail this document, as there is limited understanding at this stage of what this might entail. Impacts have been evaluated with and without mitigation in order to determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures on reducing the significance of a particular impact. The Assessment is presented in the following section and further in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

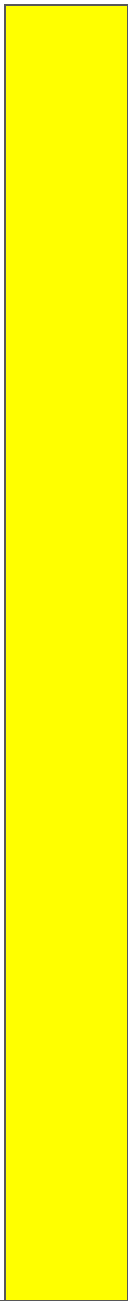
12. IMPACTS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this section is to assess and identify the most pertinent environmental impacts by describing certain quantifiable aspects of these impacts and to provide possible mitigation measures to minimize the magnitude of the impacts that are possibly deriving from the various activities that constitute the proposed minerals exploration within EPL 7564. These identified potential impacts have been evaluated. Mitigation measures are proposed for each aspect of the different potential impacts identified. Comments and concerns raised during the public consultation process have been considered and included.

Table 6 - Ecological Impact Assessment Table

Impact	Nature of impact	Status	Spatial Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Reversibility	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact = Consequence x Probability		Ranking of Impact	Confidence Level
									Without Mitigation	With Mitigation		
Land Preparation	Loss of Habitat and Species	Negative	Local	Long term	Substantial	Very Likely	Partially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specialist fauna and flora studies were commissioned for the EIA. Specialist studies were deemed unnecessary for this environmental impact assessment due to low intensity and extent of the exploration activities. Exploration may occur throughout the whole EPL but the total activity footprint as a percentage of the total areas of each habitat is estimated to be very low. Though the habitats will remain relatively undisturbed due to the 	Moderate (3)	Low (4)	3	Medium

								<p>very low percentage footprint of activities planned, without prior knowledge of the whereabouts of the vulnerable, threatened and critically endangered species and their preferred habitat, it may not be possible to prevent an impact, regardless of how small it might be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Undertake Plant and animal Search and Rescue prior to the commencement of construction.- Habitat loss for fauna and flora species should be kept to a minimum with footprint areas being restricted to the direct construction and operational areas only- In addition, where possible, construction and operational activities are to be aligned along previously disturbed areas.- Habitats surrounding the washes (rivers) host sensitive plant species which require permits for removal to avoid destruction.- No wandering around the site, collecting of plant species or hunting should be allowed.- Rehabilitation must restore the exploration sites, as far as is possible to their prior state to mitigate the visual impact and to allow for			
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								the best possible re-colonization of the site, by plants and animals.				
Exposure to soil erosion on exposed surfaces	Negative	Local	Medium term	Moderate	Likely	Yes	- Implement an Erosion Management Plan throughout the construction Phase	Moderate (3)	Low (4)	4	High	

Table 7 - Noise Impact Assessment Table

Impact	Nature of impact	Status	Spatial Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Reversibility	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact = Consequence x Probability		Ranking of Impact	Confidence Level
									Without Mitigation	With Mitigation		
Noise cause by project activities (Machineries and vehicular movements)	Disturbance of sense of place and the effect on tranquil ambient noise levels Hearing problems to operators if noise generation is prolonged and not managed	Negative	Local	Temporary/ Permanent	Substantial/ Severe	Likely	Partially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential noise sources during the exploration within could originate from vehicles, hammers, powered hand tools, excavators and drill rigs. The nuisance factor of these noise sources will depend on the proximity of the exploration activities to the national road, homesteads and sensitive animal habitats. - For rural districts, the daytime ambient noise level requirement outlined in SANS 10103 (2008) between 6am and 10pm is 45dBA. This is in line with the guidelines published by the World Health 	Very high (1)	Low (4)	3	Medium

								<p>Organization (WHO).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Machineries and vehicles (moving and stationed) should be serviced regularly.- A noise management standard operating procedure (SOP) for the activities happening on-site should be developed- Avoid generating unnecessary noise by making sure that equipment that are not in used are always turned off and by avoiding operations during odd hours- Landowners should be informed prior drilling over the weekends or at other times not outlined in this document.- Any complaints regarding noise should be recorded in the bi-annual reports/grievance form.			
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Table 8 - Dust Impact Assessment Table

Impact	Nature of impact	Status	Spatial Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Reversibility	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact = Consequence x Probability		Ranking of Impact	Confidence Level
									Without Mitigation	With Mitigation		
Dust generation during exploration activities (e.g., vehicular movement)	Tempering of the ambient air quality in the surrounding	Negative	Local	Medium term	Substantial	Likely	Partially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural weather conditions can create very dusty atmospheric conditions. The small scale and site-specific exploration activities contribute very little to the widespread ambient conditions that often prevail. Cars travelling on the access roads can create dust plumes trailing behind them. - Dust suppression techniques should be employed if the specific construction activity is likely 	Moderate (3)	Low (4)	3	Medium

								<p>to create dusty atmospheric conditions in excess of the periodic extremes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Avoid activities that create excessive dust on extremely windy days.- Personnel are required to wear personal protection equipment if excessive dust is created for prolonged working periods.- Employees should be made aware of negative effects of dust inhalation.			
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Table 9 - Waste Impact Assessment Table

Impact Pathway	Nature of impact	Status	Spatial Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Reversibility	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact = Consequence x Probability		Ranking of Impact	Confidence Level
									Without Mitigation	With Mitigation		
Generation of waste during exploration activities	Domestic waste and waste from maintenance work performed on the machinery can potentially cause unpleasant odor, sight for the people in the surrounding as well as disturbance to surface and ground water	Negative	Local	Medium term	Moderate	Unlikely	Partially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The domestic waste, which is separated from all paper and organic materials, is taken to the nearest official dumpsite. - Oil from the servicing of the vehicles and machines is collected in drums and is taken together with all other industrial waste that is generated on site to the nearest hazardous waste site. - A certificate of disposal needs to be kept on file. - Groundwater is a scarce and valuable resource in Namibia and must be protected at all costs. It must still be protected from pollutants since it can act as a conduit for the transfer of pollutants to secondary receptors such as the ocean. Additional boreholes are to be drilled to generate data about 	Moderate (3)	Very low (5)	4	Medium


								<p>the groundwater quality and quantity when exploration intensify.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The exploration company must follow the provisions of the Water Act so that they do not in any way damage the susceptible water resources- Good housekeeping Training and awareness to contractors. Practice reusing, recycling of products.			
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Table 10 - Visual Impact Assessment Table

Impact Pathway	Nature of impact	Status	Spatial Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Reversibility	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact = Consequence x Probability		Ranking of Impact	Confidence Level
									Without Mitigation	With Mitigation		
Visual impact caused by operational activities (exploration drilling, machineries and vehicular movements)	Changes to the aesthetic appeal of the area due to presence of people, vehicles and machinery. Visible changes to habitats due to human activities	Negative	Local	Temporary	Moderate	likely	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As far as is possible existing roads and tracks are used to access target sites for sampling and drilling. - Walking to target sites being careful not to disturb plants and faunal habitats. - Personnel to be trained regarding the observable signs of faunal and floral biodiversity and the avoidance of habitat disturbance. - Minimize the footprint of personnel, vehicles and machinery. As far as is possible no vegetation is to be removed. - Where new roads are constructed, the methods should be low intensive and possibly use manpower and not machines. - New roads if planned well could assist with the future objectives of the farm, lodge or hunting establishment. - Rehabilitate habitats through the removal of obvious signs of human presence. 	High (2)	Moderate (3)	4	Medium

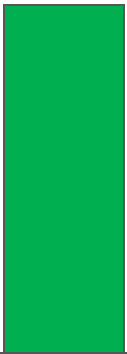
							<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Remove all waste daily and dispose of it in the appropriate manner.- Removal of machinery from the exploration sites if periods of inactivity are protracted.		
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Table 11 - Heritage Impact Assessment Table

Impact Pathway	Nature of impact	Status	Spatial Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Reversibility	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact = Consequence x Probability		Ranking of Impact	Confidence Level
									Without Mitigation	With Mitigation		
Heritage sites destruction during exploration activities	Possible destruction to heritage sites	Neutral	Local	Long term	Substantial	Unlikely	Partially	- A 'chance find' of any potential heritage site should be communicated to the police and the National Heritage Council of Namibia. If activities occur at the location where a 'chance find' has been made, then the activities should cease until the necessary authorities have visited the site and provided the go ahead to proceed with activities.	Moderate (3)	Low (4)	4	Medium

Table 12 - Socio economic Impact Assessment Table

Impact Pathway	Nature of impact	Status	Spatial Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Reversibility	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact = Consequence x Probability		Ranking of Impact	Confidence Level
									Without Mitigation	With Mitigation		
Exploration activities related to the project	Employment creation	Positive	National	Long term	Slight	Very likely	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where possible, local persons should be employed depending on the level of skills they have. - Employment will result should the project be permitted. - Promote local procurement of goods and services. 	Low + (4)	Very low + (5)	5	Medium

13. DECOMMISSIONING AND REHABILITATION

Disturbance of the earth's surface by exploration activities may result in removal of existing vegetation and ecosystems within the disturbed area. The impacts are significant, but localized to the disturbed area, and the overall extent of the impact is determined by the concentration of the activity and the sensitivity of the disturbed ecosystems. The impact on the environment can be lessened by planning with future closure in mind.

The objectives of the closure and decommissioning are to:

- Provide a safe and stable landform compatible with the intended final use;
- Comply with relevant regulatory requirements and attain regulatory consensus on the successful closure and rehabilitation of the Project area;
- Complete the closure, decommissioning and rehabilitation works as quickly and cost effectively as possible whilst achieving primary objectives
- Produce a final “walk away” landform that is stable and that blends aesthetically into the surrounding landforms, yet as far as possible does not limit possible future land uses

13.1. Site Rehabilitation

Proponent should keep the disturbed areas to a minimum, plants should not be removed unless necessary; selective exploration should be adopted so that the entire site is not cleared and affected at once; backfilling the topsoil should be done as soon as possible where soil was removed, therefore topsoil should not be piled up for a long time.

13.2. Planning for Rehabilitation

The proposed post exploration land-use will also influence the procedure and the plant species used for rehabilitation (Allan, 1998).

The following are the basic rehabilitation practices as summarized after the Minerals Council of Australia (1998), which with appropriate modifications, will apply to most disturbed areas.

1. Making Safe: After planning for rehabilitation, the first step is to clean up and make the area to be rehabilitated, safe. This involves the following:
 - Removal of infrastructure and unused or unwanted equipment. No facilities or equipment should remain on site unless with the written approval of the landowner or relevant authority.

- Removal of rubbish for disposal at approved sites. Care is required with residual toxic or hazardous materials including contaminated packaging and containers
2. Erosion Control: Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken to stabilize disturbed areas as quickly as practical and to limit erosion.
- Restrict clearing to areas essential for the works
 - Windrow vegetation debris along the contour
 - Minimize length of time soil is exposed
 - Divert run-off from undisturbed areas away from the works
3. Topsoil Management: The rehabilitation strategy may include the following measures which are designed to minimize the loss of topsoil material respread on rehabilitated areas and promote successful vegetation establishment.
- Minimize the length of time that topsoil material is to be stockpiled.
 - Respread topsoil material in even layers at a thickness appropriate for the landform and land capability of the area to be rehabilitated.
 - Topsoil stockpiles are located in areas away from drainage lines or windy areas in order to minimise the risk of soil and wind erosion;
 - Rehabilitation areas of returned topsoil will be ripped, with care taken not to bring subsurface materials to the surface (e.g. large rocks). Ripping should only be sufficient to allow equipment to work efficiently. Ripping along slopes should be along contour.

14. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The aim of this environmental scoping assessment was to identify the potential impacts associated with the proposed exploration activities on the EPL to assess their significance and recommend practical mitigation measures. The public and all directly affected stakeholders were consulted as required by the EMA and its 2012 EIA Regulations (Section 21 to 24). The public was informed via the three newspapers advertisement used for this assessment; site/public notices placed in the project site area, relevant local and regional offices notice boards and phonecall. No one-on-one interaction (public meeting) was held for this project and there was no registration received.

Due to the limited scope of the proposed activities and the use of a step-by-step approach in advancing operations, the overall severity of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project activities on the receiving environment will be of medium magnitude, temporally duration, localized extent, and high probability of occurrence.

All impacts are provided with mitigation measures, minimized or avoided to acceptable degrees provided that the measures are put into consideration

Based on the conclusions of this EIA Report, it is thus recommended that an Environmental Clearance Certificate be provided for the planned project activities (ECC). When implementing the proposed program, the Proponent shall consider the following critical requirements:

- If applicable, the Proponent will negotiate Access Agreements with landowners.
- The Proponent is responsible for obtaining all additional permits that may be required.
- In accordance with all applicable national rules, the Proponent shall comply with all terms of the EMP and conditions of the Access Agreement to be signed into between the Proponent and the land owner/s.
- In cases where baseline information, national or international guidelines, or mitigation measures have not been supplied or do not adequately address the site-specific project effect, the Proponent must use the precautionary approach/principles.

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APPENDIX A – ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS CV

APPENDIX B – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)

APPENDIX C – BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION
DOCUMENT**

For the proposed minerals exploration for base & rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals and, precious metals within EPL 7564 near Opuwo

Kunene Region



INTRODUCTION

Alliance Environmental Consultancy CC (AEC) (herein referred to as the consultant) has been appointed by Mr. Loubser Stephen Johann January (herein referred to as the proponent) to act on their behalf in obtaining an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed minerals exploration on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) 7564. The project area is located approximately 13km southeast of Okangwati in the Kunene Region.

This site is accessible via the C43 road. The EPL covers an area of approximately 1320.1508 hectares. Figure (1) gives a detailed layout locale for the site.

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This document serves the purpose of informing interested and affected parties (I&AP) of the following:

- Proposed project location;
- Proposed activities pertaining to the project;
- The EIA process to be followed;
- How you can get involved.

We hereby encourage all I&APs to submit their comment/inputs/concerns on the proposed project activities.

Your comments will add value and enrich the EIA Report as well as the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that will be

submitted to the competent authorities for decision making.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION

In terms of the Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2012, the project triggers listed activities that cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). An environmental clearance application will be submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (competent authority) and the Ministry of Environmental, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) for decision making before the commencement of the anticipated project activities.

The provision of the listed activities are as follows:

MINING AND QUARRYING ACTIVITIES

3.1 The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a license, right, or other forms of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right, or any other form of authorization in terms of Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992.

3.2 Other forms of mining or extraction of natural resources whether regulated by law or not.

3.3 Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities.

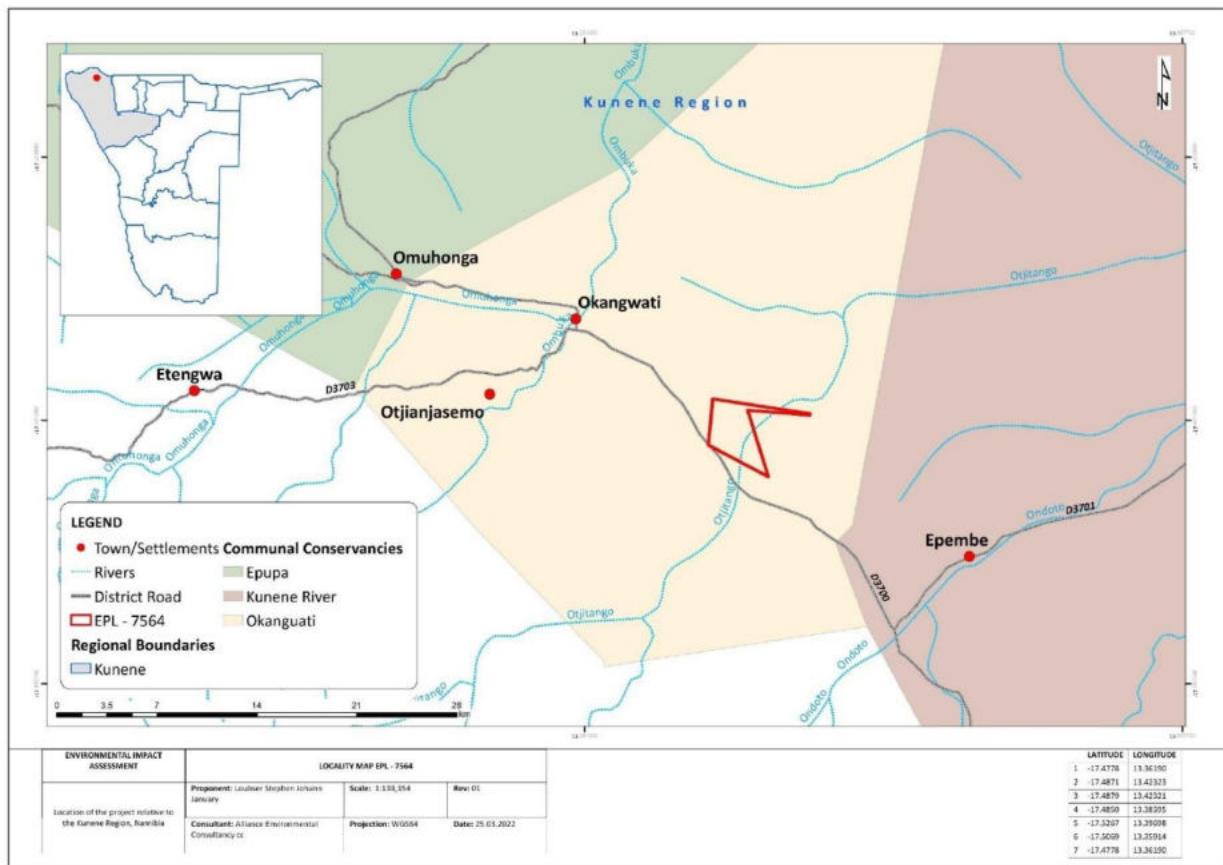


FIGURE 1 - PROJECT LOCALITY MAP

PROJECT MOTIVATION

Mining activities in Namibia is the biggest contributor to the country's revenue and one of the largest economic sectors in the country. Although during exploration activities there are limited social benefits associated with the project, the following are the possible benefits of the proposed project activities:

- Contributions to annual license fees to the government through the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME).
- Payments of lease agreements and services rendered.
- Provisional contracting opportunity for companies interested in mineral explorations are carried out throughout the mineral prospecting phase, which might take several years.
- Provision of contractual employment opportunities.
- Increase in knowledge on the subsurface which then contributes to development, and geoscience research.
- Contribute to the socio-economic development of the local area and region, even more, should viable discoveries be made.

PROPOSED PROJECT PLAN AND ACTIVITIES

The projected mineral exploration activities are summarized as follows:

1. Exploration activities include a desktop review of existing data as well as past research. This is conducted in the general area to see if there are any prospective targets. This is done by purchasing high-resolution data from the Government and interpreting it as part of the first stage of exploration.
2. Regional reconnaissance assessment, which includes field-based activities such as regional mapping and sampling in order to identify and validate prospective targeted areas identified during stage 1. This step is only carried out if the step 1 has identified some possible targets that need to be explored further.
3. Initial field-based activities such as widely distributed geological mapping, sampling, surveying, and maybe widely spaced trenching and drilling to verify the feasibility of any identified local target based on the regional data acquired in step 2 above. The degree or depth of exploration carried out at this stage is contingent on the discovery of viable/prospective mineral resources.

To assess the viability of the delineated local targets, detailed local field-based operations such as localized site-specific detailed geology mapping, trenching, bulk sample, surveying, and detailed drilling are carried out. The most commonly used drilling techniques are Reverse Circulation Drilling (RC) or Diamond Drilling. Both methods are applied in exploration, resource evaluation and subsequently in defining an ore reserve. If the detailed exploration activities yield positive results, the exploration data will be compiled into a pre-feasibility report, and if the prefeasibility results are positive, a detailed feasibility study will be conducted on the identified site-specific area, which will include detailed site-specific drilling, bulk sampling, and laboratory testing/test mining. The following is a summary of the envisaged project development process that will be implemented during the proposed exploration activities:

- Planning and permitting
- Site preparation for the exploration team if required (temporary camps).
- Supporting infrastructure, access, energy, and water supply.
- Preparation of drill sites and drilling operations
- Decommissioning, final rehabilitation

ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

The location will be accessible through the C43 and existing tracks as far as practically possible. There will be no creation of tracks if the need arises, new access roads will be assessed for any environmental sensitivity.

If the Proponent intends to continue with field-based activities, it is the Proponent's responsibility to negotiate access agreements with landowners and to ensure that all security measures to protect the land and the landowner's interests are always observed and as may be agreed upon with the landowners individually. Permission from landowners and appropriate authorities is required for any new tracks.

RESOURCES (WATER AND ELECTRICITY)

Exploration activities usually needs a supply of water which will be brought to the site. Should the company find good groundwater during the exploration activity, the borehole may be used as a water source provided the permission of the community is given and the necessary abstraction permit is attained from the department of water affairs. Again, only sustainable yields may be abstracted.

EPL 7564

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

A diesel-powered generator will be used as needed for exploration equipment and lighting for the project.

ACCOMMODATION, SUPPORTING
INFRASTRUCTURE, AND EXPLORATION
METHOD

- The exploration team will either be commuting from nearby settlements or will establish camp sites within the license area and with the permission of the community. The exploration team is envisioned to consist of three (15) skilled and non-skilled workers.
- Portable toilets will be installed on-site and regularly serviced.
- Vehicles (especially pick up bakkies) and heavy machinery including drill rigs and truck will be used during the exploration phase of the project.
- Waste will be collected and deposited to the nearest municipal dumpsite e.g., Opuwo Town dumpsite.
- Hydrocarbon tanks could be stored on-site. All hydrocarbon tanks will be appropriately stored and banded to hold 110% of the capacity of the tanks and all relevant permits should be applied for by the proponent as required (MME).
- The most commonly used drilling techniques are Reverse Circulation

Drilling (RC) or Diamond Drilling. Both methods are applied in exploration, resource evaluation and subsequently in defining an ore reserve. The method is further explained in the EIA.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and EIA Regulations, alternatives considered should be analyzed. This is to ensure that during the design evolution and decision-making process, potential environmental impacts, costs, and technical feasibility have been considered, which leads to the best option(s) being identified.

Site Location

Minerals Occurrence Location: Several economic deposits are known to exist in various locations of Namibia, some of which have been explored by various companies throughout the years.

As part of the license, the proponent proposes to explore / prospect for potential economic minerals occurrences in this specific EPL. There are no alternative locations considered for explorations.

Equipment and infrastructure

The equipment and infrastructure options considered by the proponent are deemed

sufficient at this stage of the project. However, in the world of revolving technology, the proponent may opt to employ other improved equipment/infrastructure in the future when deemed necessary in order to maximize the project output.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND STEPS

The EIA and EMP methodology applied for this project takes into account the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2012, and the Environmental Management Act (EMA) Act No. 7 of 2007. The process followed is detailed below and in Figure 2,

- a. Project registration or notification through the on the MEFT online Portal (www.eia.mef.gov.na).
- b. Project screening process.
- c. Preparation of the Background Information Document (BID).
- d. Preparation of the public notice to be published in two local newspapers twice for two consecutive weeks as well as site notices as part of the public consultation process as well. This process runs for (21 days) from 28th April 2022 – 12th May 2022 for this project. However, comments received after the stipulated period and before

submission to the competent authority are also welcome.

- e. Preparation of the first Draft EIA/ Scoping and EMP Reports for client review, public and stakeholder inputs.
- f. Incorporation of comments and inputs from the client and I&APs into the reports for finalization.
- g. The final EIA/ Scoping and EMP reports are submitted to the competent authorities and the Environmental Commissioner in fulfilment of all the requirements of the Act and its Regulations.
- h. Stakeholders who are interested or affected by the proposed project will have additional fourteen (14) days to submit comments directly to the Environmental Commissioner (EC). The application will be made available for additional comments on the MEFT digital Portal www.eia.mef.gov.na.
- i. If the EC requires additional information about the project, the environmental practitioner will be alerted. Once provided-
- j. Wait for the Record of Decisions.

The process is also depicted in the diagram presented in Figure 2.

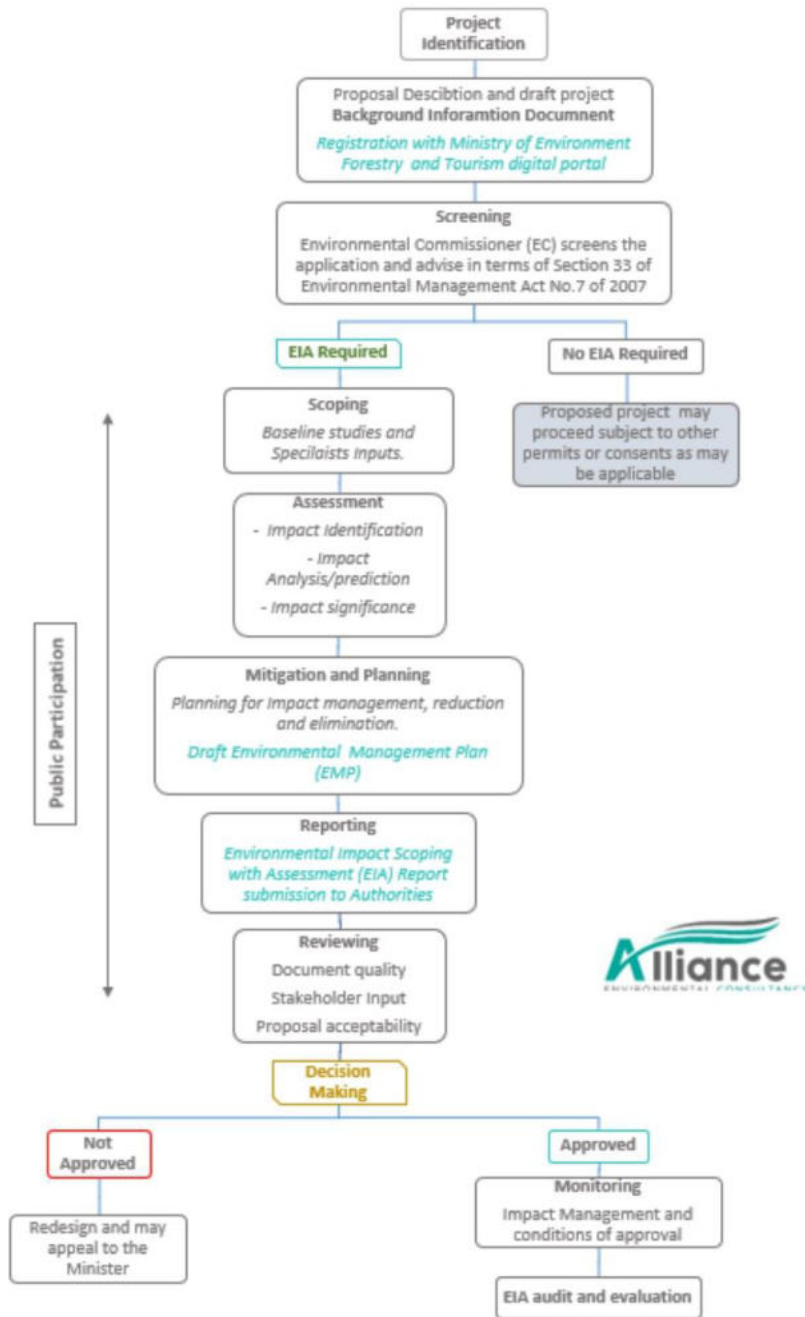


FIGURE 2 - EIA FLOW CHART BY AEC

EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Impacts are assessed and evaluated to identify the most pertinent environmental impacts by describing certain quantifiable aspects of these impacts and to provide possible mitigation measures to avoid and/or minimize the magnitude of the impacts that are possibly deriving from the various activities that constitute the proposed exploration activities by the proponent.

The identification of potential impacts included impacts that may occur during the exploration phases of the project. The assessment of impacts includes direct, indirect as well as cumulative impacts. In order to identify potential impacts (both positive and negative) it is important that the nature of the proposed projects is well understood so that the impacts associated with the projects can be assessed.

The process of identification and assessment of impacts includes:

- Determining the current environmental conditions in sufficient detail to establish a baseline against which impacts can be identified and measured.

- Determining future changes to the environment that will occur in a case where the activity does not proceed.
- Develop an understanding of the activity in detail to understand its consequences; and
- The identification of significant impacts which are likely to occur if the activity is undertaken.

The following potential impacts on the social environment during exploration and activities have been identified below and further discussed in the table that follows:

- Dust & Noise
- Health & Safety
- Visual
- Waste
- Ecological
- Groundwater and surface water
- Heritage & Socio-Economic

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following table summarizes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS
NEGATIVE
- Possible destruction of vegetation and fauna through disturbance of the surface
- Mining projects if not proceeding with necessary precautions are likely to cause soil and water contamination, due to hazardous chemical spills and leaks from machinery/ heavy vehicles
- Noise pollution from sources such as power generation, drill rig operations, heavy vehicle engines as well as other sources
- Air pollution from the emission of carbon dioxide by machinery during the exploration of minerals
- Exploration activities are accompanied by huge equipment and camping which are foreign to the environment and therefore causes a visual impact to the environment and the community members.
- Possible disturbance to heritage/historically important area of interest.

POSITIVE
- The project will positively contribute to the socio-economic development of the country by creating wealth, job creation, the country's GDP through tax and license payments
- This proposed project will however also contribute to achieving the country's national goals of poverty reduction through skills and human development (improving living conditions of locals)

Any negative environmental impacts that will arise from the proposed activities will be substantially minimized, avoided, and/or mitigated in accordance with the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and the best industry practices.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). During the public participation process, I&APs will be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of the reports, during the specified comment periods.

I&APs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social, and economic issues relating to the proposed project. The inputs from a broad variety of stakeholders will complement the EIA.

GET INVOLVED

To ensure that you are registered as an Interested & Affected party, complete the form with your comments, issues/concerns below and forward it to info@enviro-aec.com

Your involvement is highly appreciated

FOR THE PROPOSED MINERALS EXPLORATION ON EPL 7564 NEAR OKANGWATI, KUNENE REGION

REGISTRATION AND RESPONSE FORM FOR INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

<i>DETAILS OF THE INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY</i>	
FULL NAME:	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION:	
POSTAL ADDRESS:	POSTAL CODE:
STREET ADDRESS:	POSTAL CODE:
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	FAX NUMBER:
CELL PHONE NUMBER:	E-MAIL ADDRESS:
INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT:	
COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:	

APPENDIX D – SITE NOTICES AND ADVERTS AND STAKEHOLDER LIST



Opuwo Spar



Kunene Regional Council



Opuwo Town Council

Into Africa

New roles announced to drive Paratus expansion

With an impressive N\$1-billion revenue per annum, Paratus provides services to its customers in more than 35 African countries.

As part of the Paratus group's vision and to support the rapid growth and expansion plans of the business, Group CEO Barney Harmse will take up the new position of Executive Chairman of Paratus Group and Group COO Schalk Erasmus will take over the Group CEO role. They will be working very closely together not only during the handover in the coming months, but also over the next few years, to ensure the group's new vision is fulfilled and that continuity in all areas of implementation is sustained.



Group CEO, Schalk Erasmus (back) and Barney Harmse, Executive Chairman (front). PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Our group's vision is to transform Africa through exceptional digital infrastructure and customer service. Barney Harmse Group CEO: Paratus

Together with their co-founders, Harmse and Erasmus had the vision for establishing Africa's quality network and have, over the past two decades, guided the group's moves to assert Paratus as a major telco player with an impressive footprint in Africa. Owning its own infrastructure; building expert teams in seven southern African countries; and serving customers across the countries' divides with a seamless quality network service are the cornerstones of the group's success. With an impressive N\$1-billion revenue per annum, Paratus also provides services to its customers in more than 35 African countries; is the appointed partner to land the Equiano subsea cable in Namibia; and has built four of its own Data Center facilities in three African countries to date. Barney Harmse says: "Our group's vision is to transform Africa through

exceptional digital infrastructure and customer service. Our objective is to double revenue within the next five years. Our plan for expansion and growth is through investing and deploying the best infrastructure, and through mergers and acquisitions. Our focus areas are South, Central, and West Africa - they are huge markets. We have recently opened in the DRC through a joint venture with GBS in that country, where we have won a tender to activate a 620-kilometer fiber optic network link. Harmse and the team have built an impressive quality network across Africa, and they are very proud of their achievements. As Executive Chairman, I will be able to assist and help drive expansion with more focus and acuity and I am excited about our next growth trajectory."

Projects

Schalk Erasmus has been with Paratus since the beginning 20 years ago. He has been instrumental in various projects, including The Equiano Cable Project, The Trans Kalahari Fibre Network (TKF), and in recent years, has been responsible for the roll-out of the group's data center (DC) in Namibia, one of the group's most considerable investments in infrastructure to date. He says: "We're entering the fifth era of connectivity. Yes, it's about data and, yes, it's about quality connectivity but we believe the future will also be more focused upon how people experience the content, and how being better connected can help to transform the way people live and work. We are investing in digital infrastructure to grow Africa's quality network. We will now expand to new territories so that more people may flourish and be transformed through connectivity." "We're seeing our vision

fast becoming a reality. Although it's only the beginning, we are already in serious talks in a few west African countries."

Harmse concludes: "We have carved the Paratus path across the continent with due care and attention. We are delivering Africa's quality network, we were born in Africa, we know Africa. There are no limits and that's what we offer our customers - limitless opportunities through connectivity. Our new vision is aligned with what Africa needs right now. It's an exciting time for our business - and for Africa." Harmse and Erasmus will work very closely together with the Paratus top structure over the next few months to enable the full handover of Group CEO responsibilities in August 2022, when Paratus officially opens its DC in Windhoek, its fourth in Africa.

Journalism groups criticise Musk's twitter deal

Groups representing journalists around the world expressed concern on Tuesday that billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's move to buy Twitter would damage media freedoms on the online platform.

Musk, who has reached a US\$44 billion (R696 billion) deal for Twitter, describes himself as a "free speech absolutist" who would encourage no holds barred exchanges between the network's 400 million users.

But the International Federation of Journalists and the European Federation of Journalists said his move would place too much power in the hands of one owner and could harm efforts to curtail bullying and disinformation on the site.

"Twitter is an extension of journalists' offices. This is where journalists promote their work, express ideas or

find sources of information," said IFJ general secretary Anthony Belanger.

"This space must be duly moderated, while respecting freedom of speech. It is a fine balance that any Twitter owner must pay attention to," he said.

"We are concerned

that Elon Musk's plans for Twitter are going the wrong direction by exacerbating opportunities to attack journalists and threatening the anonymity of users."

Musk has said that he wishes to expand Twitter's user verification system to "authenticate all humans". This might curtail some anonymous abuse on the platform, but will raise fears among vulnerable groups who prefer to keep their identities secret. - Fin24



Elon Musk. PHOTO REUTERS

PUBLIC NOTICE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 7564, KUNENE REGION. On behalf of the proponent, Alliance Environmental Consultancy CC (AEC) herewith gives notice in terms of the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for the proposed exploration activities on EPL 7564. Proponent: Mr. Loubser S J January. Commodities: Base & rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals and, precious metals. Locality: 10km Southeast of Okangweti, Kunene Region. All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register and submit comments duly motivated in writing by the 18th of May 2022. A Background Information Document (BID) can be requested from the email address below. Email: info@enviro-aec.com. Cell: +264 85 772 8929. Alliance logo.

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Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry: Rural Water Supply	Mr Kapukatua Kuvare	Regional Head
Ministry of Mines and Energy	Mr Shivolo Erasmus	Mining Commissioner
Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Mr Timoteus Mufeti	Environmental Commissioner
Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Mr Naftali Elias	Chief Warden Opuwo
Kunene Regional Council (KRC)	Mr. Kazeongere Zeriapi Tjeundo	Opuwo Rural Constituency Councillor
Kunene Regional Council (KRC)	Hon. Cllr. Mupya Mupya	Opuwo Urban Constituency Office
Opuwo Town Council	Hon. Tjhombo Alphons	CEO
Opuwo Town Council	Mr. Ruhumba Uatjivisa	Local Economic Development
Traditional Authority		
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NamWater	Mr. Du Plessis NP	Environmental
NamPower	Ms Haihambo Nadia	Environmental
Roads Authority	Mr. Rutz Jackie	Area Manager