

Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Study for:
The Town Planning and Survey Works (Rezoning) on the Land allocated for the Construction of Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) Officers' Accommodation in Gobabis Town of the Omaheke Region



Document Type: Scoping Report

Document Version: Final for Submission

Reference No.: 221122000389

Author: Fredrika Shagama	Proponent: Namibian Correctional Service (NCS)
Company: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd	Contact person: Commissioner Immanuel Ngolo
Telephone: +264 (0) 61 259 530	Telephone: +264 61 61 284 6000/6921
Post: Box 997154 Maerua Mall, Windhoek	Post: Private Bag 13281, Windhoek
Email: info@edsnamibia.com	Email: immanuel.ngolo@ncs.gov.na

25 November 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) (hereinafter referred to as The Proponent) intends to have town planning and survey works undertaken for a site allocated for the construction of accommodation facilities for its officers in the town of Gobabis Town, Omaheke Region. The proposed site is the Greenfield piece of land of the Remainder of Farm Townlands of Gobabis No. 114 located on the northern part of the current NCS premises near the B8 in Gobabis. The centre GPS coordinates of the site are: -22.440208° 18.971157°.

The proposed rezoning is one of the listed activities in the 2012 EIA Regulations of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) in 2007 (No. 7 of 2007) that cannot be implemented without obtaining an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). Therefore, the rezoning of the site from open space to residential (accommodation facility) and related activities need to be environmentally cleared prior. In the Regulations, the rezoning and surveying works fall under:

5. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

5.1 The rezoning of land from -

- residential use to industrial or commercial use, and
- (d) use for nature conservation or zoned open space to any other land use.”

To ensure that the project activities comply with the environmental management laws, the Proponent appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions Pty Ltd (a team of independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners) to undertake the required Environmental Assessment process and apply for the ECC. The Assessment Process produced the Scoping Report and draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP). These documents are submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Planning and Rezoning

The proposed activity will entail the rezoning of the land portion for the intended use. The land will be rezoned from ‘the current’ land use (open space) for the establishment of the officers’ accommodation and associated facilities.

Upon approval of the surveying/ rezoning works, and completion of all necessary planning and design works, construction works of the accommodation facilities will commence. Construction works will be outsourced to a contractor (to be appointed on tender).

Construction of the Accommodation Facility

During the construction phase, earthworks will be carried out in certain areas of the project site to erect the buildings and for the installation of the necessary services infrastructure. This will require soil excavation within the construction site. There will be heavy construction vehicles and equipment moving around the site during construction. There is little to no vegetation within the proposed survey site, hence no major disturbance to vegetation is expected during this phase.

The following works will be done in terms of infrastructure and services provision:

- Construction of buildings and related infrastructures such as stormwater management channels, access roads, parking, etc.
- Installation of; power supply cables, potable water pipelines, sewage systems, and wastewater disposal pipelines.

Type of Accommodation to be constructed

The proposed accommodation facility at the site behind the existing Gobabis' NCS premises will include the following (with associated services infrastructure):

- Three (3) marriage quarters,
- Four (4) Bachelor flats,
- Two (2) Single quarters for male and female (for 14 persons/officers), and
- One (1) recreational facility.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public Consultation Activities

The communication with the stakeholders and interested & affected parties (IAPs) about the project activities was done through the following means and in this order to ensure that the public is notified and afforded an opportunity to comment on the project:

- **Stakeholders / Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs):** The list of stakeholders (IAPs) was developed and updated throughout the ESA process.

- **A Background Information Document (BID)** A non-technical summary of the Project activities (background information document (BID)) containing brief information about the project activities was compiled and circulated to all pre-identified and all new registered IAPs (upon request). The email communication containing the BID sent out to the pre-identified IAPs and stakeholders.
- **Environmental Assessment Study notifications** were published in *The Namibian* and *New Era* Newspapers dated 07 and 14 October 2022, respectively. The adverts briefly provided information on the project activities, location, inviting the public to register as IAPs and submit their comments/concerns.
- **Project (Public) Notices:** A3 size printed posters were placed in Gobabis at the Epako Municipality in Gobabis and Omaheke Region Council in Gobabis.
- **A Consultation Meeting** was scheduled and held on the 09th of November 2022 in Gobabis. The meeting was scheduled for 11h30 at the NCS Gobabis Boardroom. The meeting was only attended by the Proponent's representatives and EDS Consultants. Since the meeting was only attended by the Proponent and Environmental Consultants, the meeting was more of a discussion and there were no comments or issues from the Proponent. Therefore, there were no meeting minutes taken.

The comments and registration request period ran from 07 October to 28 October 2022 with an extension after the consultation meeting to 09 November 2022. There were no comments submitted to the Environmental Consultants.

Potential Impacts identified

The following potential impacts are anticipated:

Positive impacts:

- The successful rezoning of the land will lead to the development of the land to establish decent and better accommodation for the NCS officers who are dedicated to rehabilitate offenders.
- Temporary creation of employment during construction and possibly operational phase
- Increased support for local businesses through the procurement of locally available goods and services.

Potential Negative impacts (mainly during the actual construction of the facility):

- Physical land/soil disturbance
- Waste generation – improper disposal of wastes generated during the project phases may lead to environmental pollution.
- Air quality issue owing to dust generation
- Vehicular traffic safety and services infrastructure (local roads).
- Dust (air quality) generated by project related traffic travelling on the unpaved access roads may compromise the local air quality.
- Noise generated by project related equipment and vehicles may be a nuisance.
- Health and safety
- Loss of biodiversity: the rezoning and eventual construction works may lead to the disturbance of site flora and possible faunal habitats.

These project impacts were assessed, and mitigation measures provided accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The potential impacts that are anticipated from the project activities were identified, described, and assessed. For the significant adverse (negative) impacts with medium rating, appropriate management and mitigation measures were recommended for implementation by the Proponent.

The interested and affected parties (IAPs) and stakeholders were consulted as per the EMA and its 2012 EIA Regulations (Section 21 to 24). This was done via the two newspapers used for this environmental assessment, i.e., *New Era* and *The Namibian* of 07 and 14 October 2022. A consultation meeting was scheduled, meeting invitations sent to the registered IAPs and stakeholders. The meeting was held in Gobabis on the 09th of November 2022. No comments nor concerns were made and raised on project activities throughout the consultation period.

The potential adverse impacts identified by the Environmental Consultant were found to be of medium rating significance. With the effective implementation the recommended management and mitigation measures, significance of these impacts will be reduced to low rating. To maintain the desirable rating, the implementation of management and mitigation measures, it is highly recommended that the Proponent or the construction Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to

conduct the EMP implementation monitoring. Monitoring will not only be done to avoid impacts or maintain their desired rating, but to also ensure that all potential adverse impacts identified in this study and other impacts that might arise during Project implementation are properly and timely identified and addressed accordingly.

The Scoping assessment is deemed sufficient and conclude that no further detailed assessments are required to the ECC application.

Based on the assessment done for the proposed rezoning and eventual construction and operation of the NCS Officers' accommodation facility in Gobabis, the project and its associated activities do not pose a significant risk to the environment. However, it is highly recommended that the measures provided are effectively implemented and monitoring to protect the biophysical and social environment throughout the project duration.

Recommendations

The EDS Consultants are confident that the potential negative impacts associated with the project activities can be managed and mitigated by the effective implementation of the recommended management and mitigation measures. This would also be improved by more effort and commitment towards monitoring the implementation of these measures.

It is therefore, recommended that the project activities be granted an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The Proponent will be required to ensure that:

- All the management and mitigation measures provided in the Draft EMP are effectively and progressively implemented and monitored.
- All required approval consents (particularly from the Gobabis Municipality) for the certain activities should be obtained as required and ensuring compliance with the specific conditions and legal requirements attached thereto.
- All project personnel, contractors, and visitors onsite (during construction) comply with the legal requirements governing their project and its associated activities.
- The disturbed areas owing to the project activities during construction should be rehabilitated, as far as practicable.

Conclusions

Based on the assessment conducted for the proposed site and its planned activities, the project and its associated activities do not pose a significant risk to the environment that would prompt

its discontinuation or closure. However, it is highly recommended that the measures provided are effectively implemented and monitoring to protect the biophysical and social environment throughout the project duration.

Disclaimer

EDS warrants that the findings and conclusion contained herein were accomplished in accordance with the methodologies set forth in the Scope of Work and EMA of 2007 with its 2012 EIA Regulations. These methodologies are described as representing good customary practice for conducting an EIA for the purpose of identifying recognized environmental conditions. There is a possibility that even with the proper application of these methodologies there may exist on the subject project site conditions that could not be identified within the scope of the assessment, or which were not reasonably identifiable from the available information. The EDS Consultants believe that the information obtained from the record review and during the public consultation processes concerning the project is reliable. However, the Consultants cannot and does not warrant or guarantee that the information provided by the other sources is accurate or complete. The conclusions and findings set forth in this Scoping Report are strictly limited in time and scope to the date of the evaluations. No other warranties are implied or expressed.

Some of the information provided in this Report is based upon personal interviews, stakeholders' engagement and research of available documents, records, and maps held by the appropriate government and private agencies. This Report is subject to the limitations of historical documentation, availability, and accuracy of pertinent records and the personal recollections of the persons contacted or consulted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF APPENDICES	x
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	x
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project Background and Locality	1
1.2 The Need for the Environmental Scoping Assessment	2
1.3 Appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner	2
1.4 The Need for the Rezoning (Surveying works) and Construction.....	3
2 THE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES	4
2.1 Planning and Rezoning Phase	4
2.2 Construction Phase	4
2.3 Type of Accommodation to be constructed	4
2.4 Human Resources, Services, and infrastructure	5
2.4.1 Water supply	5
2.4.2 Power and Fuel Supply (machinery and equipment)	5
2.4.3 Project Equipment, Machinery, and Vehicles	5
2.4.4 Solid waste and Sewage management	5
2.4.5 Hazardous waste	5
2.4.6 Road Access.....	6
2.4.7 Workforce	6
2.4.8 Construction materials	6
2.4.9 Accommodation (construction workers)	6
2.4.10 Site security	6
2.4.11 Site safety and security	6
2.4.12 Health and Safety	7
2.4.13 Potential Accidental Fire Outbreaks	7
2.5 Operational and Maintenance Phase.....	7
3 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES	8
3.1 Types of Alternatives Considered	8

3.1.1	The "No-go" Alternative	8
3.1.2	Alternative Activity and Location	8
3.1.3	Services Infrastructure	9
4	LEGAL FRAMEWORK: LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES.....	10
4.1	The Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and 2012 EIA Regulations	10
4.2	Other Legal Requirements (Legislation, Acts, Policies, etc.).....	10
5	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE	17
5.1	Climate	17
5.1.1	Temperatures	17
5.1.2	Rainfall.....	18
5.1.3	Air and Wind	20
5.2	Topography and Landscape.....	21
5.3	Geology and Soil	22
5.4	Water Resources: Groundwater and Surface Water	25
5.5	Biodiversity: Fauna and Flora	25
5.5.1	Fauna	26
5.5.2	Flora	26
5.6	Social Conditions.....	27
5.6.1	Demography	27
5.7	Economic Activities	27
5.7.1	Infrastructure and Services	28
5.8	Archaeology, Cultural and Heritage Resources	29
6	PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS.....	30
6.1	Pre-identified and Registered Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs)	30
6.2	Communication with Stakeholders (Interested and Affected Parties).....	30
6.2.1	Compilation of the Background Information Document (BID)	30
6.2.2	Newspaper Advertising (Public Notification).....	31
6.2.3	Consultation Meetings	31
6.2.4	Public Notices (Posters) and Public Comments Period	32
7	IMPACT IDENTIFICATION, DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT.....	33
7.1	Impact Identification	33
7.2	Impact Assessment Methodology and Criteria.....	34
7.3	Impact Significance	35
7.4	Assessment of Potential Positive Impacts	37

7.4.1	Rezoning and Subsequent Accommodation for the NCS Officers	37
7.4.2	Job Creation and Employment Opportunities	37
7.5	Assessment of Potential Negative (Adverse) Impacts.....	38
7.5.1	Generation of Dust (Air Quality)	38
7.5.2	Noise	38
7.5.3	Soil Disturbance and Water Resources Pollution	39
7.5.4	Water Resources Use.....	39
7.5.5	Environmental Pollution (Waste Generation).....	40
7.5.6	Occupational and Community Health and Safety	40
7.5.7	Vehicular Traffic Use and Safety.....	41
7.5.8	Disturbance to Archaeological and Heritage resources.....	41
7.5.9	Impact on Biodiversity (Fauna and Flora).....	42
8	RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.....	43
8.1	Recommendations	43
8.2	Conclusions.....	44
9	LIST OF REFERENCES	45

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1: Locality of the proposed site for surveying (rezoning) and construction of the accommodation facility of the NCS Officers in Gobabis Town of the Omaheke Region.....	1
Figure 5-1: The monthly average temperatures for Gobabis (World Weather Online, 2022).....	18
Figure 5-2: The maximum, minimum, and average temperatures for Gobabis (World Weather Online, 2022)	18
Figure 5-3: The rainfall & rainy days and monthly average rainfall for Gobabis (World Weather Online, 2022)	19
Figure 5-4: The wind rose for Gobabis (Meteoblue, 2022)	20
Figure 5-5: The elevation around the project site	21
Figure 5-6: The Landscape around the project site	22
Figure 5-7: The geology of the site and surrounding areas	23
Figure 5-8: The dominant soil found within and around the site.....	24
Figure 5-9: The sandy loamy soils observed onsite.....	24
Figure 5-10: The hydrology and groundwater of the Project area.....	25
Figure 5-11: Dominant vegetation (woodland shrubs)) around the site.....	26
Figure 5-12: The shrubs and grass cover within the site and three trees at the fence of the NCS premises	27
Figure 6-1: Consultation Meeting in Gobabis on the 09 th of November 2022.....	31
Figure 6-2: Public Notice at the Municipality of Gobabis' Epako Office Notice board.....	32
Figure 6-3: Public Notice at the Omaheke Regional Council Office Notice board	32

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4-1: Applicable local, and national acts, policies and guidelines governing the project	11
Table 7-1: Criteria used for impact assessment (extent, duration, intensity and probability)	34
Table 7-2: Significance rating scale.....	36
Table 7-3: Assessment of rezoning and eventual accommodation provision.....	37
Table 7-4: Assessment of the project activities on local employment	38
Table 7-5: Assessment of the impacts of project activities on air quality	38
Table 7-6: Assessment of the impacts of noise from the project activities	39
Table 7-7: Assessment of the project impact on soils and water resources (pollution)	39
Table 7-8: Assessment of the project impact on water resource use and availability.....	40
Table 7-9: Assessment of waste generation impact	40
Table 7-10: Assessment of the impact on occupational and community health and safety	41
Table 7-11: Assessment of the impacts of project activities on road use (vehicular traffic)	41
Table 7-12: Assessment of the impacts of construction works on archaeological & heritage.....	42
Table 7-13: Assessment of the impacts of project activities on biodiversity (fauna and flora)	42

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

Appendix B: Curricula Vitae (CV) for the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

Appendix C: EIA / ESA Notification in the newspapers (*New Era* and *The Namibian*)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
BID	Background Information Document
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DEAF	Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
EDS	Excel Dynamic Solutions
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment

Abbreviation	Meaning
EMA	Environmental Management Act
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
ESA	Environmental Scoping Assessment
GG & GN	Government Gazette & Government Notice
IAPs	Interested and Affected Parties
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MURD	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
NCS	Namibian Correctional Service
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
Reg / S	Regulation / Section

KEY TERMS

Terms	Definition
Alternative	A possible course of action, in place of another that would meet the same purpose and need of the proposal.
Baseline	Work done to collect and interpret information on the condition/trends of the existing environment.
Biophysical	That part of the environment that does not originate with human activities (e.g., biological, physical and chemical processes).
Cumulative Impacts/Effects Assessment	In relation to an activity, means the impact of an activity that in it may not be significant but may become significant when added to the existing and potential impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities or undertakings in the area.
Decision-maker	The person(s) entrusted with the responsibility for allocating resources or granting approval to a proposal.
Ecological Processes	Processes which play an essential part in maintaining ecosystem integrity. Four fundamental ecological processes are the cycling of water, the cycling of nutrients, the flow of energy and biological diversity (as an expression of evolution).

Terms	Definition
Environment	As defined in Environmental Management Act - the complex of natural and anthropogenic factors and elements that are mutually interrelated and affect the ecological equilibrium and the quality of life, including – (a) the natural environment that is land, water, and air; all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms and (b) the human environment that is the landscape and natural, cultural, historical, aesthetic, economic and social heritage and values.
Environmental Management Plan	As defined in the EIA Regulations (Section 8(j)), a plan that describes how activities that may have significant environments effects are to be mitigated, controlled, and monitored.
Interested and Affected Party (IAP)	In relation to the assessment of a listed activity includes - (a) any person, group of persons or organization interested in or affected by an activity; and (b) any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity. Mitigate - practical measures to reduce adverse impacts. Proponent – as defined in the Environmental Management Act, a person who proposes to undertake a listed activity. Significant impact - means 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.
Fauna and Flora	All the animals and plants found in an area.
Mitigation	The purposeful implementation of decisions or activities that are designed to reduce the undesirable impacts of a proposed action on the affected environment.
Monitoring	Activity involving repeated observation, according to a pre-determined schedule, of one or more elements of the environment to detect their characteristics (status and trends).
Proponent	Organization (private or public sector) or individual intending to implement a development proposal.
Public Consultation/Involvement	A range of techniques that can be used to inform, consult or interact with stakeholders affected by the proposed activities.
Protected Area	Refers to a protected area that is proclaimed in the Government Gazette according to the Nature Conservation Ordinance number 4 of 1975, as amended.

Terms	Definition
Scoping	An early and open activity to identify the impacts that are most likely to be significant and require specialized investigation during the EIA work. Can, also be used to identify alternative project designs/sites to be assessed, obtain local knowledge of site and surroundings, and prepare a plan for public involvement. The results of scoping are frequently used to prepare a Terms of Reference for the specialized input into full EIA.
Terms of Reference (ToR)	Written requirements governing full EIA input and implementation, consultations to be held, data to be produced and form/contents of the EIA report. Often produced as an output from scoping.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background and Locality

The Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) (hereinafter referred to as The Proponent) intends to have town planning and survey works undertaken for a site allocated for the construction of accommodation facilities for its officers in Gobabis Town of the Omaheke Region. The proposed site is the Greenfield piece of land of the Remainder of Farm Townlands of Gobabis No. 114 located on the northern part of the current NCS premises near the B8 in Gobabis as shown in Figure 1-1. The centre GPS coordinates of the proposed site: -22.440208° 18.971157° .

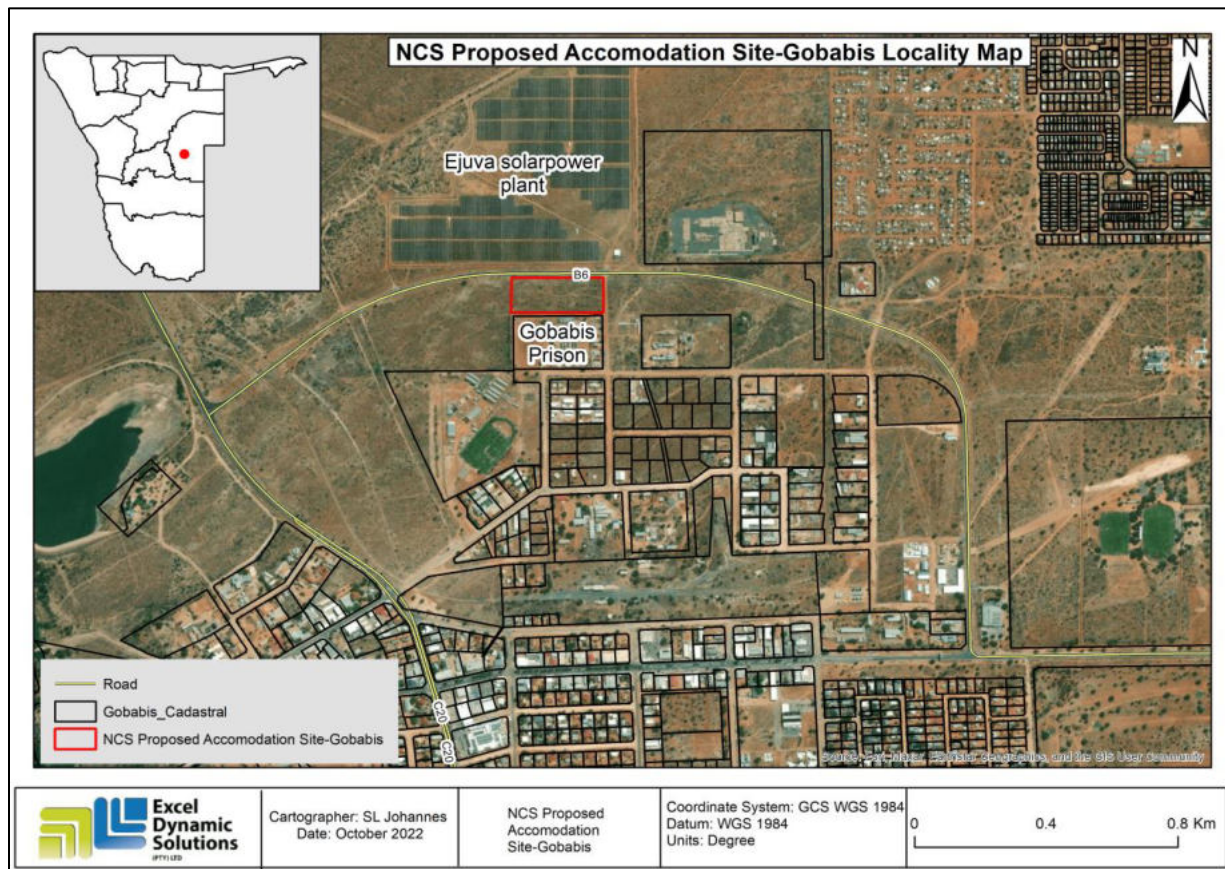


Figure 1-1: Locality of the proposed site for surveying (rezoning) and construction of the accommodation facility of the NCS Officers in Gobabis Town of the Omaheke Region

1.2 The Need for the Environmental Scoping Assessment

Land use and rezoning works are listed as activities that may not be implemented without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) under the Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2007) and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The listed activities as per EIA regulations as relevant to the proposed activity/development are as follows:

“5. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 *The rezoning of land from -*
- *-(a) residential use to industrial or commercial use, and*
- *-(d) use for nature conservation or zoned open space to any other land use.”*

To ensure that the project activities comply with the environmental management laws, the Proponent appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions Pty Ltd (a team of independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners) to undertake the required ESA process and apply for the ECC. This process includes public & stakeholders’ engagement and consultation, compilation of the ESA Report and draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP). These documents will then be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.

The application for the ECC was compiled and submitted to the Environmental Custodian, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)’s Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) for consideration of the ECC by the Environmental Commissioner at MEFT. The ECC would be considered upon submission of an Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) or Scoping Report and Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) – Appendix A.

1.3 Appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner

To satisfy the requirements of the EMA and its 2012 EIA Regulations, NCS (Proponent) appointed a team of independent environmental consultants (Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS)), to conduct the required Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

The Scoping Assessment Study was conducted, and reporting done by Ms. Fredrika Shagama, an experienced EAP and qualified Geohydrologist with over 7 years of experience in the Environmental and Groundwater Management Consulting sector. Ms. Shagama’ CV is presented under Appendix B.

1.4 The Need for the Rezoning (Surveying works) and Construction

The NCS has a mandate of providing safe, secure, and humane custody of offenders, rehabilitate and re-integrate them into community. The NCS Mission is to provide exceptional correctional service that empower offenders to effectively re-integrated into society as law abiding citizen. However, the NCS Officers can only exceptionally perform their duties when their living conditions are also at an acceptable standard (comfortable and conducive environment). The Gobabis NCS facility has a shortage of accommodation for some of its Officers, hence, the need additional accommodation facilities. The existence of the open space behind the NCS premises in Gobabis makes it a suitable and feasible solution to cater for the accommodation need for the NCS employees (Officers). Furthermore, the rezoning of the land would encourage the continued development of the Gobabis Town.

The description of the proposed project activities is provided under the next heading (Chapter 2).

2 THE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

2.1 Planning and Rezoning Phase

The proposed activity will entail the rezoning of the land portion for the intended use. The land will be rezoned from 'the current' land use (open space) for the establishment of the officers' accommodation and associated facilities.

Upon approval of the surveying/ rezoning works, and completion of all necessary planning and design works, construction works of the accommodation facilities will commence. Construction works will be outsourced to a contractor (to be appointed on tender).

2.2 Construction Phase

During construction phase, earth works will be carried out in certain areas of the project site to erect the buildings and for the installation of the necessary services infrastructure. This will require soil excavation within the construction site. There will be heavy construction vehicles and equipment moving around the site during construction. There is little to no vegetation within the proposed survey site, hence no major disturbance to vegetation is expected during this phase.

The following works will be done in terms of infrastructure and services provision:

- Construction of buildings and related infrastructures such as stormwater management channels, access roads, parking, etc.
- Installation of; power supply cables, potable water pipelines, sewage systems and wastewater disposal pipelines.

2.3 Type of Accommodation to be constructed

The proposed accommodation facility at the site behind the existing Gobabis' NCS premises will include the following (with associated services infrastructure):

- Three (3) marriage quarters,
- Four (4) Bachelor flats,
- Two (2) Single quarters for male and female (for 14 persons/officers), and
- One (1) recreational facility.

2.4 Human Resources, Services, and infrastructure

The following services and infrastructure as provided below will be required for the project activities:

2.4.1 Water supply

For construction will be sourced from the main existing water supply (reticulation) line for Gobabis Town, upon reaching a supply agreement with NCS and construction contractor. The quantity of water consumption is not yet known.

2.4.2 Power and Fuel Supply (machinery and equipment)

In consultation with the Gobabis Municipality and NAMPOWER (the electricity provider), the new facilities will be supplied from the existing power grid. As a backup, the facility will be equipped with generators to be kept on standby onsite.

Diesel will be used for machinery and equipment and fuel generator during construction.

2.4.3 Project Equipment, Machinery, and Vehicles

For the actual construction, there will be heavy trucks, medium-sized trucks, 4x4 bakkies, excavators, generator for power supply, etc.

2.4.4 Solid waste and Sewage management

Solid waste will be stored on-site in designated waste bins and transported to the local municipal site in Gobabis Town, as often as necessary.

Sewage management: the construction workers will be using portable toilets throughout this phase. These toilets will be provided by the appointed construction contractor. For the operational phase, the facilities will be connected to the municipal sewer system.

2.4.5 Hazardous waste

The waste fuel/oils will be carefully stored in a standardized container for disposal at an approved hazardous waste management facility in the Town or at a nearby approved facility in the country.

2.4.6 Road Access

The site is accessible from the B6 by the existing local municipal access roads. If necessary, additional site access road(s) will be surveyed for construction and utilized by project related vehicles.

2.4.7 Workforce

Temporary employment opportunities will be created during the construction phase. However, the exact number of people to be employed by the appointed contractor cannot be determined at this stage. Therefore, the number will be determined by the contractor based on project needs.

2.4.8 Construction materials

For the construction of the facilities, construction materials will be sourced from the local building materials suppliers in Gobabis. And if necessary, and as required, materials will be sourced from elsewhere in the country or outside the country and as per the required and approved building material standards.

2.4.9 Accommodation (construction workers)

During construction, the very skilled that may be from outside Gobabis are expected to be housed in nearby accommodation facilities in Gobabis. Construction workers from Gobabis will be commuting from and to their homes daily. This is to avoid having too many workers living on site for the duration of the construction phase.

2.4.10 Site security

It is expected that there will be construction vehicles and equipment on site during this phase. It is for this reason that 24-hour onsite security personnel will need to be appointed to guard the equipment against possible equipment vandalism and theft and community safety.

2.4.11 Site safety and security

The construction contractor will construct a temporary fence wall or corrugated iron sheets around the construction site to control access to the site. For operations, a concrete / palisade wall will be constructed around the site.

2.4.12 Health and Safety

To ensure health and safety for the construction duration, all workers that will be assigned in high to medium risk working areas will be provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). A first aid kit will be provided onsite, whereby 2 to 3 workers trained on how to administer first aid.

2.4.13 Potential Accidental Fire Outbreaks

A minimum of two fire extinguishers will be readily available onsite during construction. During the operational phase, each building will be equipped with a well-serviced fire extinguisher.

2.5 Operational and Maintenance Phase

During this phase, the officers' accommodation will be operated and managed by the Proponent. The NCS Officers will be having sufficient accommodation to continue carrying out their duties on the premises.

3 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives are defined as the “*different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity*” (EMA, 2007). This section will highlight the different ways in which the project can be undertaken and to identify the alternative that will be the most practical, but least damaging to the environment is identified.

Once the alternatives have been established, these are examined by asking the following three questions:

- What alternatives are technically and economically feasible?
- What are the environmental effects associated with the feasible alternatives?
- What is the rationale for selecting the preferred alternative?

The alternatives considered for the project are discussed in the following subsections.

3.1 Types of Alternatives Considered

3.1.1 The "No-go" Alternative

The “no action” alternative implies that the proposed rezoning and eventual construction of the officers’ accommodation would be abandoned. Should the project proposal be discontinued, none of the potential impacts (positive and negative) identified would occur. The discontinuation of the proposal would also mean the officers accommodation will not be constructed and the land remains as it is.

Considering the above losses, the “no-action/go” alternative was not considered a viable option for this project.

3.1.2 Alternative Activity and Location

This type of alternative is weighed in terms of what other development could have been considered for the site. The Proponent did not consider any other alternative land use for the site. This could be because the site is right behind the existing NCS and already within the town boundaries. It will just be suitable and logical to rezone the immediate portion to be part of the existing NCS facility with similar land use type. It is for this reason; that the proposed rezoning

and eventual construction of the NCS Officers' accommodation would be the viable project on the site.

3.1.3 Services Infrastructure

The project site is suitable given its proximity to the following services infrastructure:

- Site accessibility: the proposed site is easily accessible from the main B6 road by the existing access road connecting the B6 to the NCS premises.
- Water supply: After rezoning, the site will be connected to the NCS premises water supply line, upon consultation with and approval by the Gobabis Municipality.
- Power supply: The site is located within proximity of the NAMPOWER substation and within the Gobabis Municipality Townlands for connection to the municipal services.

The above provided Project description, associated activities and considered alternatives thereto are governed by specific legal framework, from a local, regional, and national perspective. The presentation of these legal requirements is provided under Chapter 4.

4 LEGAL FRAMEWORK: LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

A review of applicable and relevant Namibian legislation, policies, and guidelines to the project is given in this section. This review serves to inform the project Proponent, Interested and Affected Parties, and the decision-makers at the DEAF of the requirements and expectations, as laid out in terms of these instruments, to be fulfilled from the rezoning of the site and subsequent construction of the Officers' accommodation and associated infrastructure.

4.1 The Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and 2012 EIA Regulations

The Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations aims to ensure that the potential impacts of the project on the environment are considered carefully and in good time; that all interested and affected parties have a chance to participate in the environmental assessments and that the findings of the environmental assessments are fully considered before any decisions are made about activities which might affect the environment.

The Act aims at promoting sustainable management of the environment and use of natural resources. The Environmental Management Act (EMA) is broad; it regulates land use development through environmental clearance certification and/or Environmental Impact Assessments. The listed activities in the Regulations that are relevant to the project and its associated activities are as follows:

“5. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

5.1 The rezoning of land from -

- *(a) residential use to industrial or commercial use, and*
- *(d) use for nature conservation or zoned open space to any other land use.”*

Implication and applicability for the project: The Proponent should carry out an assessment of the impact on the receiving environment and obtain an ECC for the proposed activities.

4.2 Other Legal Requirements (Legislation, Acts, Policies, etc.)

The legal obligations that are relevant to the project activities are presented in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1: Applicable local, and national acts, policies and guidelines governing the project

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
<p>The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990 as amended:</p> <p>Government of the Republic of Namibia</p>	<p>The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia (1990 as amended) addresses matters relating to environmental protection and sustainable development. Article 91(c) defines the functions of the Ombudsman to include:</p> <p>“...the duty to investigate complaints concerning the over-utilisation of living natural resources, the irrational exploitation of non-renewable resources, the degradation and destruction of ecosystems and failure to protect the beauty and character of Namibia...”</p> <p>Article 95(l) commits the state to actively promoting and maintaining the welfare of the people by adopting policies aimed at the:</p> <p>“...Natural resources situated in the soil and on the subsoil, the internal waters, in the sea, in the continental shelf, and in the exclusive economic zone are property of the State.”</p>	<p>By implementing the environmental management plan, the establishment will be in conformant to the constitution in terms of environmental management and sustainability.</p> <p>Ecological sustainability will be main priority for the project.</p>
<p>Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Government Gazette (GG) No. 4878 Government Notice (GN) No. 30): Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)</p>	<p>The EMA has stipulated requirements to complete the required documentation to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for permission to undertake certain listed activities. The project activities are listed in the Regulations:</p> <p>-The (EIA) Regulations detail requirements for public consultation within a given environmental assessment process (GN 30 Section (S) 21). The EIA regulations also outline the required details of a Scoping Report (GN 30 S8) and an Assessment Report (GN 30 S15).</p>	<p>The ESA Study has been conducted in accordance with the EMA and its Regulation. This is presented under Chapter 6 of this Report.</p> <p>An ECC application has been launched with the MEFT. This Scoping Report and Draft EMP will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at DEAF for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.</p>

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
<p>Pollution Control and Waste Management Bill (Guideline only): Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)</p>	<p>The relevant parts of this Bill to the project are part 7 and 8.</p> <p>Part 7 states that any person who sells, stores, transports or uses any hazardous substances or products containing hazardous substances shall notify the competent authority, in accordance with sub-section (2), of the presence and quantity of those substances.</p> <p>The competent authority for the purposes of section 74 shall maintain a register of substances notified in accordance with that section and the register shall be maintained in accordance with the provisions.</p> <p>Part 8 provides for emergency preparedness by the person handling hazardous substances, through emergency response plans.</p>	<p>The Proponent should ensure compliance with the Bill requirements throughout the project cycle.</p>
<p>Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 5 of 2018: Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD)</p>	<p>Consolidate the laws relating to urban and regional planning; to provide for a legal framework for spatial planning in Namibia; to provide for principles and standards of spatial planning; to establish the urban and regional planning board; to decentralise certain matters relating to spatial planning; to provide for the preparation, approval and review of the national spatial development framework, regional structure plans and urban structure plans; to provide for the preparation, approval, review and amendment of zoning schemes; to provide for the establishment of townships; to provide for the alteration of boundaries of approved townships, to provide for the disestablishment of approved townships; to provide for the change of name of approved townships; to provide for the subdivision and consolidation of land; to provide for the alteration, suspension and deletion of conditions relating to land; and to provide for incidental matters.</p>	<p>The Proponent should ensure compliance with the requirements of this Act.</p>

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
<p>Local Authorities Act No. 23 of 1992: Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD)</p>	<p>To provide for the determination, for purposes of local government, of local authority councils; the establishment of such local authority councils; and to define the powers, duties and functions of local authority councils; and to provide for incidental matters.</p> <p>The Act also empowers local authorities to regulate the removal of waste, etc.</p>	<p>The Gobabis Municipality is the responsible Local Authority of the area. Therefore, the Proponent should ensure that their project activities adhere to the Municipal regulations and rules regarding operations onsite. The Proponent should notify the Municipality of any changes in site area and expansion of services and associated changes and requirements thereto.</p>
<p>The Regional Councils Act (No. 22 of 1992): Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD)</p>	<p>This Act sets out the conditions under which Regional Councils must be elected and administer each delineated region. From a land use and project planning perspective, their duties include, as described in section 28 “to undertake the planning of the development of the region for which it has been established with a view to physical, social and economic characteristics, urbanisation patterns, natural resources, economic development potential, infrastructure, land utilisation pattern and sensitivity of the natural environment.</p>	<p>The relevant Regional Councils are IAPs and must be consulted during the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. The project site falls under the Omaheke Regional Council; therefore, they should be consulted.</p>
<p>Water Act 54 of 1956: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)</p>	<p>The Water Resources Management Act 11 of 2013 is presently without regulations; therefore, the Water Act No 54 of 1956 is still in force:</p> <p>Prohibits the pollution of water and implements the principle that a person disposing of effluent or waste has a duty of care to prevent pollution (S3 (k)).</p> <p>Provides for control and protection of groundwater (S66 (1), (d (ii)).</p> <p>Liability of clean-up costs after closure/abandonment of an activity (S3 (l)). (l)).</p>	<p>The protection (both quality and quantity/abstraction) of water resources should be a priority.</p>

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
Water Resources Management Act (No 11 of 2013): Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)	<p>The Act provides for the management, protection, development, use and conservation of water resources; and provides for the regulation and monitoring of water services and to provide for incidental matters. The objects of this Act are to:</p> <p>Ensure that the water resources of Namibia are managed, developed, used, conserved and protected in a manner consistent with, or conducive to, the fundamental principles set out in Section 66 - protection of aquifers, Subsection 1 (d) (iii) provide for preventing the contamination of the aquifer and water pollution control (S68).</p>	
Soil Conservation Act (No 76 of 1969): Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)	<p>The Act makes provision for the prevention and control of soil erosion and the protection, improvement and conservation of soil, vegetation and water supply sources and resources, through directives declared by the Minister.</p>	<p>Duty of care must be applied to soil conservation and management measures must be included in the EMP.</p>
Forestry Act (Act No. 12 of 2001: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	<p>The Act provides for the management and use of forests and forest products.</p> <p>Section 22. (1) provides: "Unless otherwise authorised by this Act, or by a licence issued under subsection (3), no person shall on any land which is not part of a surveyed erven of a local authority area as defined in section 1 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992) cut, destroy or remove - (a) vegetation which is on a sand dune or drifting sand or on a gully unless the cutting, destruction or removal is done for the purpose of stabilising the sand or gully; or (b) any living tree, bush or shrub growing within 100 m of a river, stream or watercourse."</p>	<p>The site is already cleared and have some trees at the southern side and within the premises. The trees are to remain undisturbed. However, should it come to light during the planned site works that the trees are obstructing the plans, the permit to be remove a tree or trees should be obtained from the Forestry Office in Gobabis.</p>

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
National Heritage Act No. 27 of 2004: Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MEAC)	To provide for the protection and conservation of places and objects of heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects; to establish a National Heritage Council; to establish a National Heritage Register; and to provide for incidental matters.	The Proponent should ensure compliance with this Acts' requirements, particularly during site upgrade and where earthworks are carried out. The necessary management measures and related permitting requirements must be taken. This done by consulting with the National Heritage Council (NHC) of Namibia. The management measures should be incorporated into the Draft EMP.
The National Monuments Act (No. 28 of 1969): Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MEAC)	The Act enables the proclamation of national monuments and protects archaeological sites.	
Public Health Act (No. 36 of 1919): Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	Section 119 states that "no person shall cause a nuisance or shall suffer to exist on any land or premises owned or occupied by him or of which he is in charge any nuisance or other condition liable to be injurious or dangerous to health."	The Proponent and all its employees should ensure compliance with the provisions of these legal instruments.
Health and Safety Regulations GN 156/1997 (GG 1617): Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	Details various requirements regarding health and safety of labourers.	
Public and Environmental Health Act No. 1 of 2015: Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	The Act serves to protect the public from nuisance and states that no person shall cause a nuisance or shall suffer to exist on any land or premises owned or occupied by him or of which he is in charge any nuisance or other condition liable to be injurious or dangerous to health.	The Proponent should ensure that the project infrastructure, vehicles, equipment, and machinery are designed and operated in a way that is safe, or not injurious or dangerous to public health and that the noise and dust emissions which could be considered a nuisance remain at acceptable levels. The public and environmental health should be preserved and remain uncompromised.

Legislation / Policy / Guideline: Custodian	Relevant Provisions	Implications for this project
Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance (1976): Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	This ordinance provides for the prevention of air pollution and is affected by the Health Act 21 of 1988. Under this ordinance, the entire area of Namibia, apart from East Caprivi, is proclaimed as a controlled area for the purposes of section 4(1) (a) of the ordinance.	The project and related activities should be undertaken in such a way that they do not pollute or compromise the surrounding air quality. Mitigation measures should be put in place and implemented on site.
Hazardous Substance Ordinance, No. 14 of 1974: Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)	The ordinance provides for the control of toxic substances. It covers manufacture, sale, use, disposal and dumping as well as import and export. Although the environmental aspects are not explicitly stated, the ordinance provides for the importing, storage, and handling.	The Proponent should handle and manage the storage and use of hazardous substances on site so that they do not harm or compromise the site environment
Road Traffic and Transport Act, No. 22 of 1999: Ministry of Works and Transport (Roads Authority of Namibia)	The Act provides for the establishment of the Transportation Commission of Namibia; for the control of traffic on public roads, the licensing of drivers, the registration and licensing of vehicles, the control and regulation of road transport across Namibia's borders; and for matters incidental thereto. Should the Proponent wish to undertake activities involving road transportation or access onto existing roads, the relevant permits will be required.	Mitigation measures should be provided for, if the roads and traffic impact cannot be avoided, the relevant permits must be applied for.
Labour Act (No. 6 of 1992): Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC)	Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation is aimed at ensuring harmonious labour relations through promoting social justice, occupational health and safety and enhanced labour market services for the benefit of all Namibians. This ministry insures effective implementation of the Labour Act No. 6 of 1992.	The Proponent should ensure that the project activities do not compromise the safety and welfare of workers.

The Project activities, their alternatives and legal framework above will be undertaken in a specific environment, i.e., physical, biological and social environmental features as presented under the next chapter.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE

The project activities (land surveying/rezoning and construction of the accommodation facilities) will be undertaken in specific environmental and social conditions. The understanding of these conditions helps in identifying the sensitive environmental features that may need to be protected through the implementation of certain management and mitigation measures. The summary of selected physical, biological and social baseline information of the project area is provided below as per the site visit conducted by the Environmental Consultant on the 09th of November 2022 and relevant published reports and books.

The climatic conditions of the Gobabis Town (project site area) are described using the available nearest data for Gobabis obtained from World Weather Online and Meteoblue websites (2022).

5.1 Climate

5.1.1 Temperatures

According to the World Weather Online (2022), the average temperature for Gobabis is 31°C experienced in October and minimum of 7°C in June. The average monthly high and low temperatures are shown in Figure 5-1. The maximum and minimum temperature for Gobabis is 34°C and 6°C, respectively as shown in Figure 5-2.

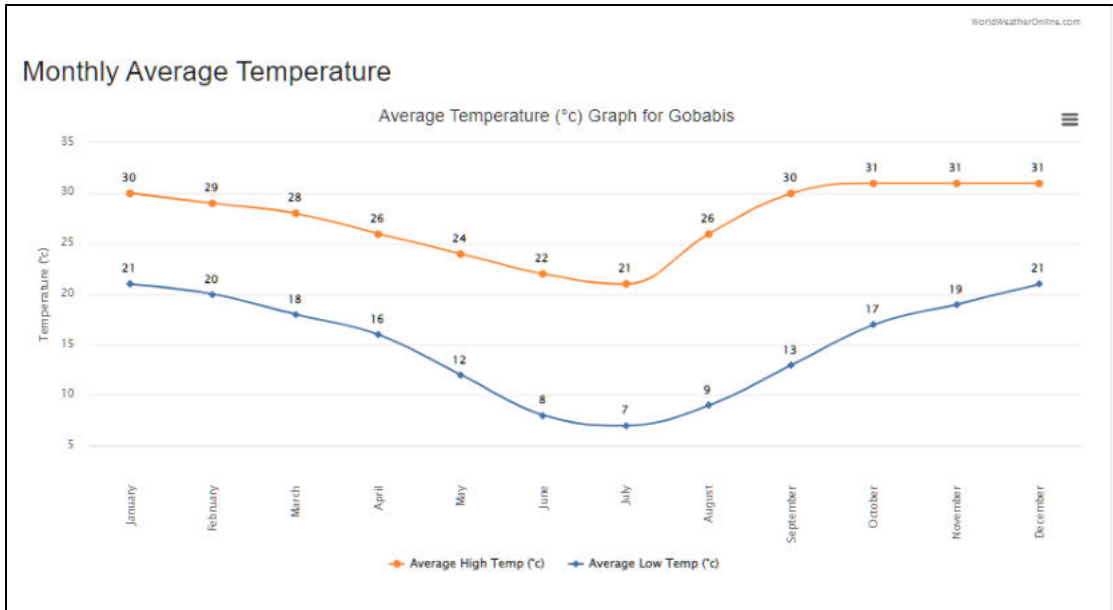


Figure 5-1: The monthly average temperatures for Gobabis (World Weather Online, 2022)

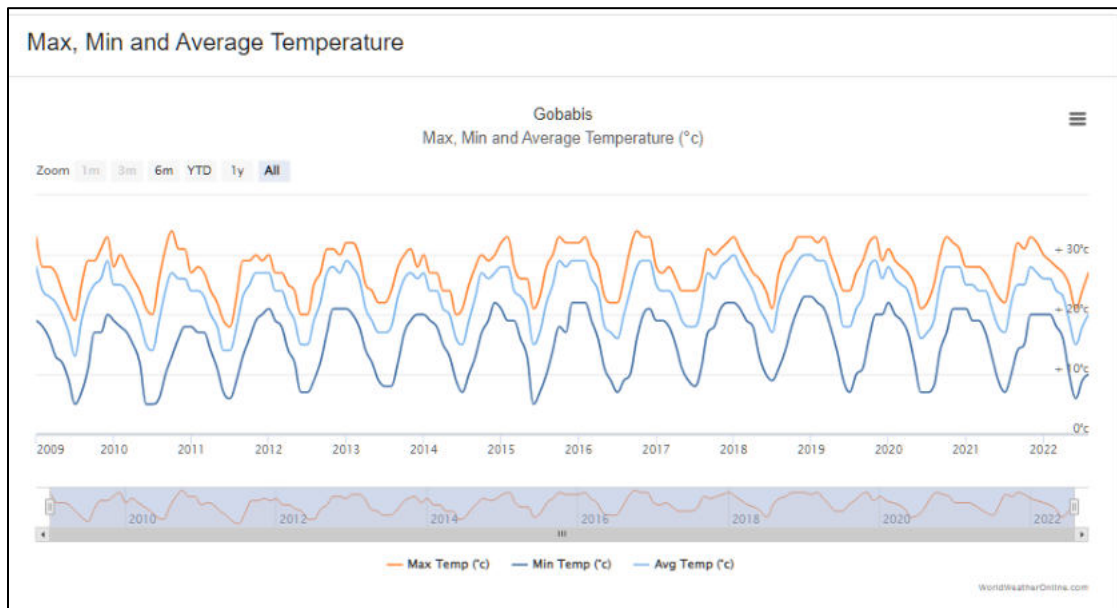


Figure 5-2: The maximum, minimum, and average temperatures for Gobabis (World Weather Online, 2022)

5.1.2 Rainfall

The average rainfall for Gobabis thirteen (13) year-period, i.e., from 2009 to 2022 are shown in Figure 5-3. The Gobabis Town receives rea experience good rains between November and March.

According to World Weather Online (2022) average rainfall graph, the month of February experienced the highest rainfall at an average of about 387mm in 2012 (rained 15 days), followed by 373mm in January 2021 (rained for 11 days) and 306mm (for 8 days) in December 2019. The monthly average rainfall is 112mm where it rained for 4 days in January.

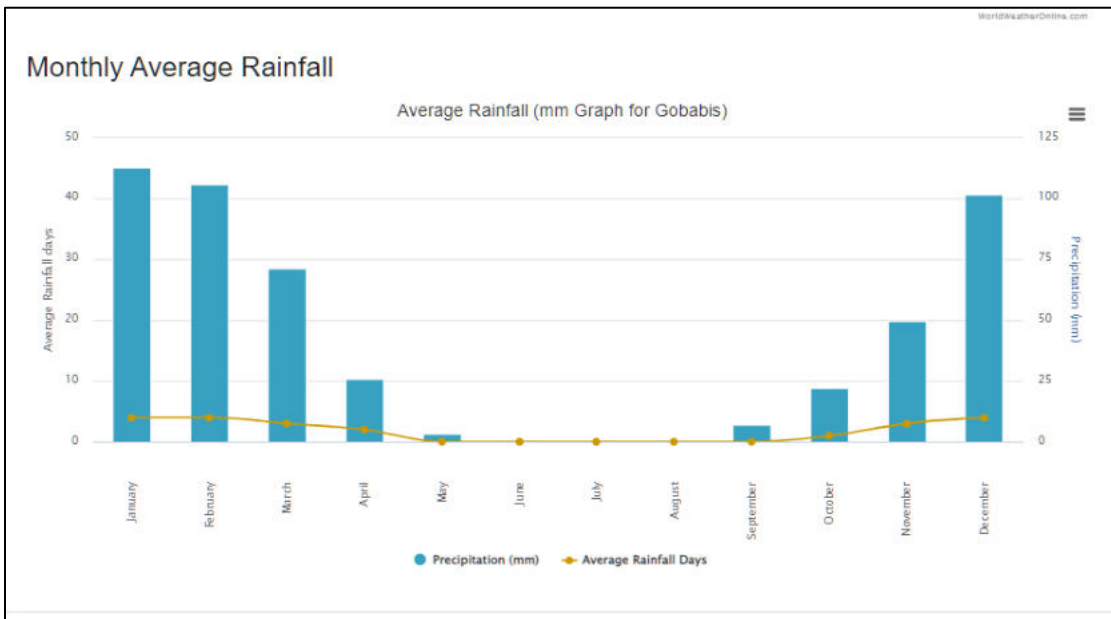
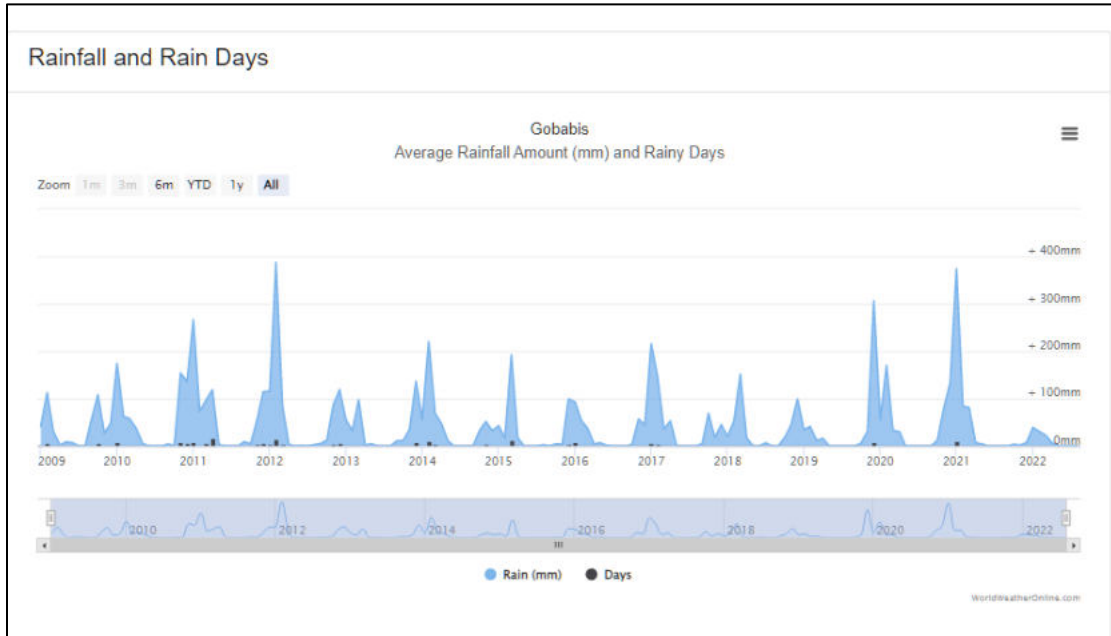


Figure 5-3: The rainfall & rainy days and monthly average rainfall for Gobabis (World Weather Online, 2022)

5.1.3 Air and Wind

Air: the current known sources of air pollution in the area are dust emissions from unpaved access roads within the project site area, particularly in dry and windy months.

According to the Air Quality Index (2022)¹, Gobabis’ air quality as indicated by the PM25 concentration is 43.2µg/m³. Particulate matter (PM) 2.5 known as the PM2.5 concentration in Gobabis is currently 8.6 times the World Health Organization (WHO)’s annual air quality guideline value. The concentration value is considered unhealthy for Sensitive Groups.

Wind: The wind rose for Gobabis from the Meteoblue modelled climate is shown in Figure 5-4 and indicates that the wind is dominantly blowing from South to Northeast with the speed ranging between 12 and 28km/h.

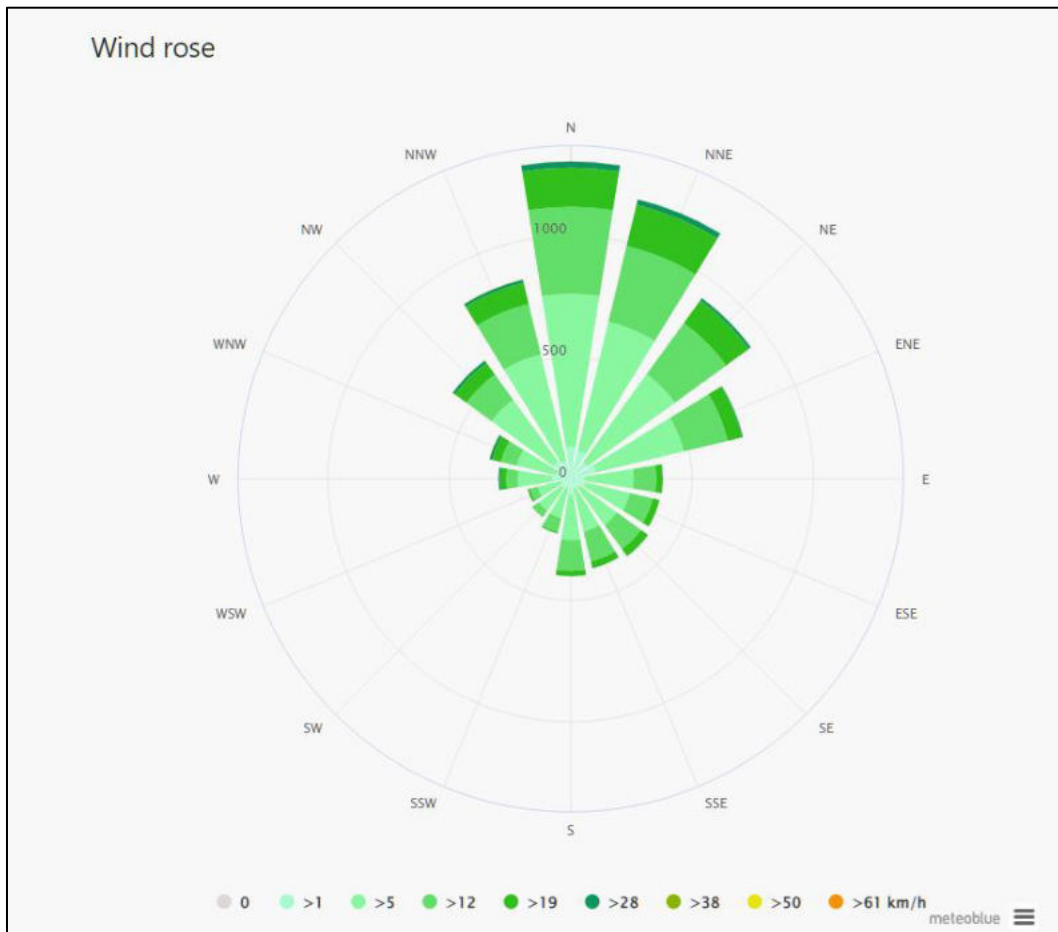


Figure 5-4: The wind rose for Gobabis (Meteoblue, 2022)

¹ Air Quality Index. (2022). World Air Quality: Air Quality in Gobabis. <https://www.iqair.com/namibia/omaheke/gobabis>

5.2 Topography and Landscape

Gobabis is found in flat area with undulating terrains in some surrounding areas. The elevation of the project site ranges between 1,248 and 1,477 meters above sea level (masl) as shown on the map in

Figure 5-5.

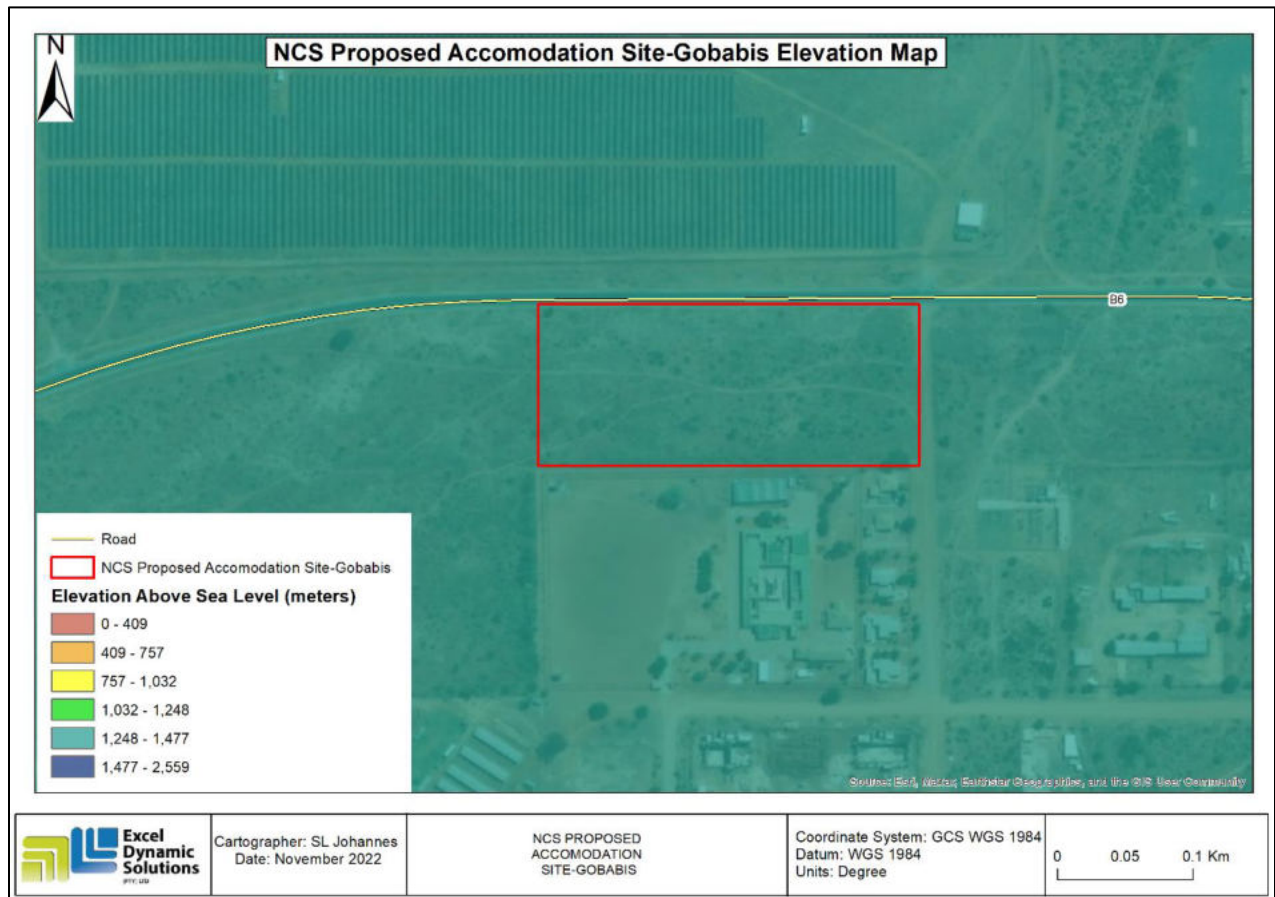


Figure 5-5: The elevation around the project site

The landscape of the site area is characterized by the Kalahari Sandveld as shown on the map in Figure 5-6.

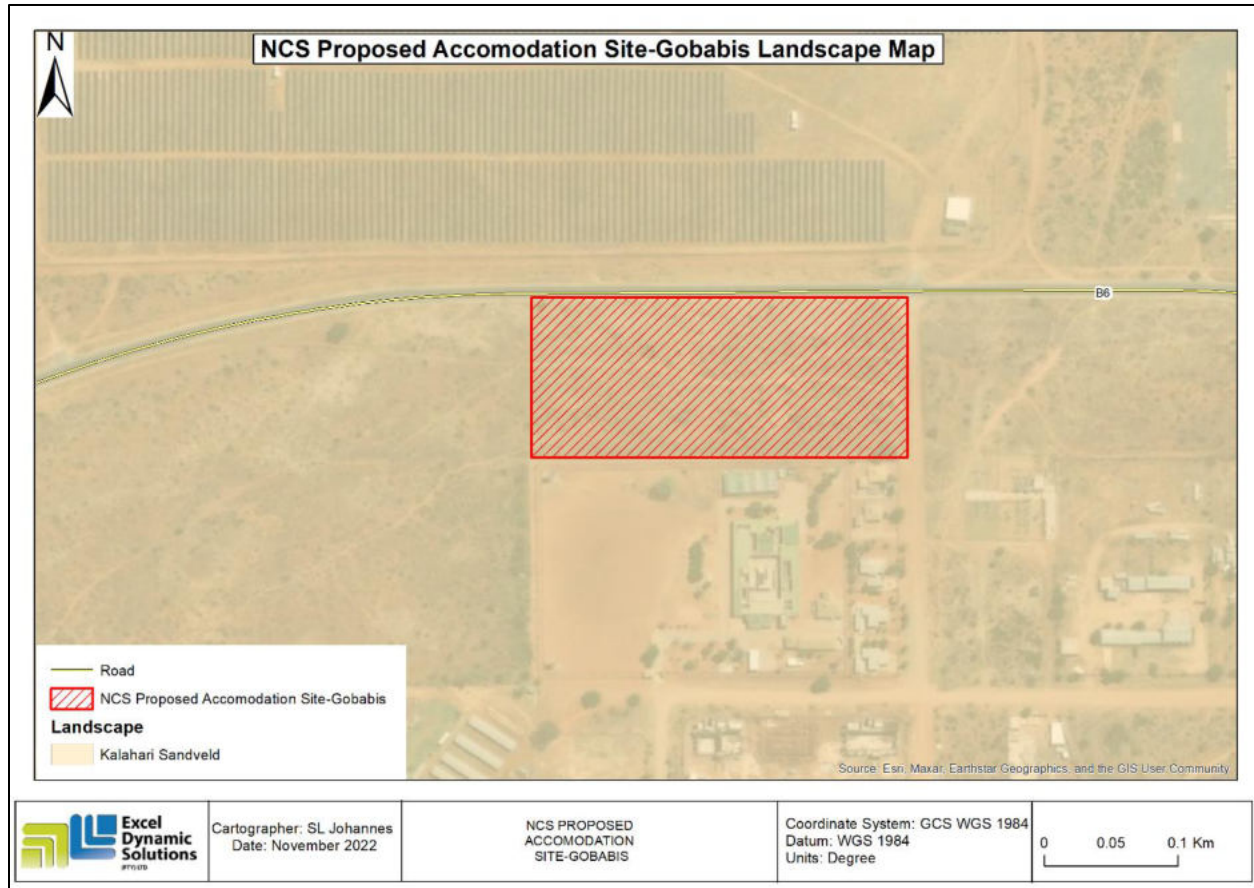


Figure 5-6: The Landscape around the project site

5.3 Geology and Soil

The site and its south-eastern surroundings are overlain by the relatively thick layer of sand cover of the Kalahari Group. The sand cover is underlain by rock units of sandstone, black limestone, conglomerate, and shale. The western-north-north-eastern areas from the site are covered by quartzites, conglomerates, schists and marbles as shown on the geology map in Figure 5-7.

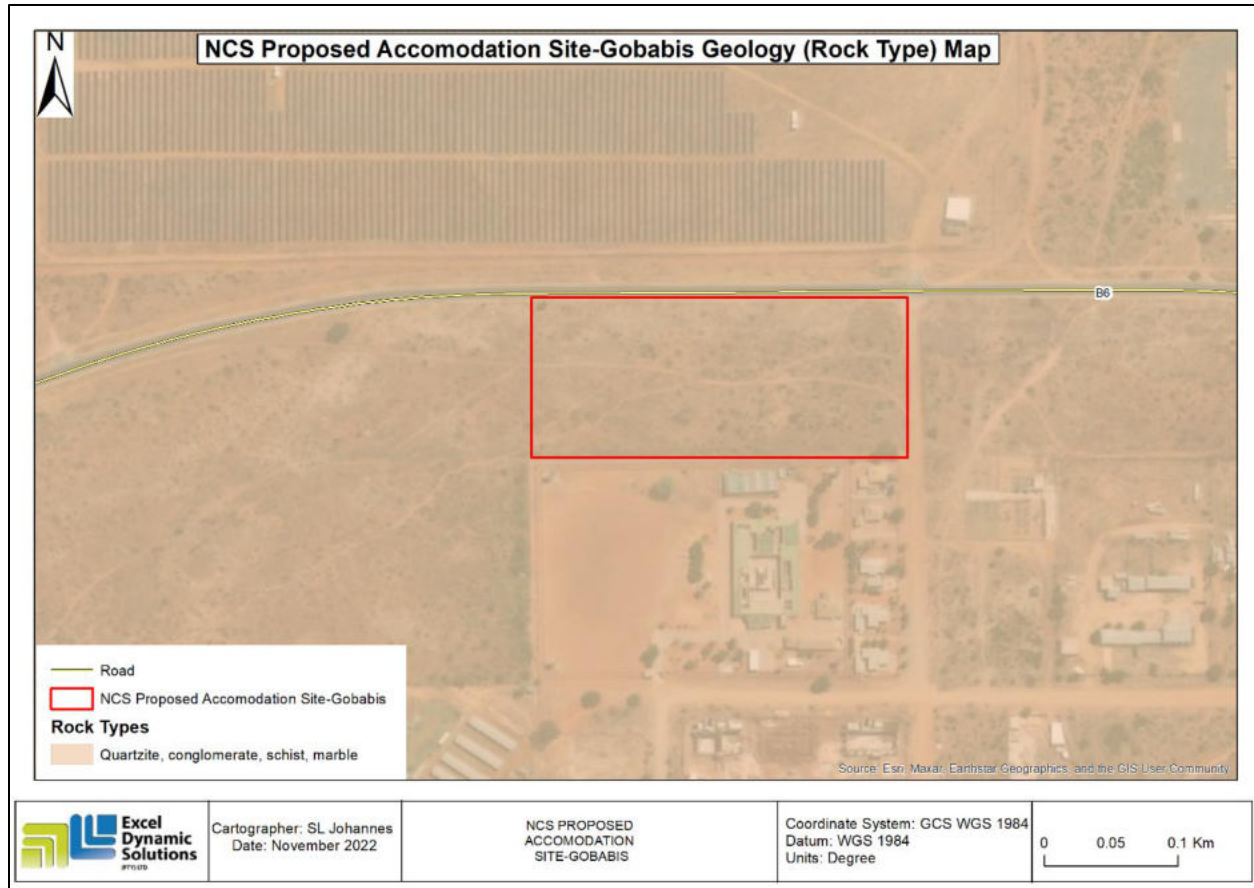


Figure 5-7: The geology of the site and surrounding areas

In terms of soil, the site is overlain by the Eutric Fluvisols as shown on the dominant soil map in Figure 5-8. Fluvisols are found typically on level topography that is flooded periodically by surface waters or rising groundwater, as in river floodplains and deltas².

² Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. (2011). Fluvisol. Encyclopedia Britannica. Available from <https://www.britannica.com/science/Fluvisol>. Accessed 03 July 2022.

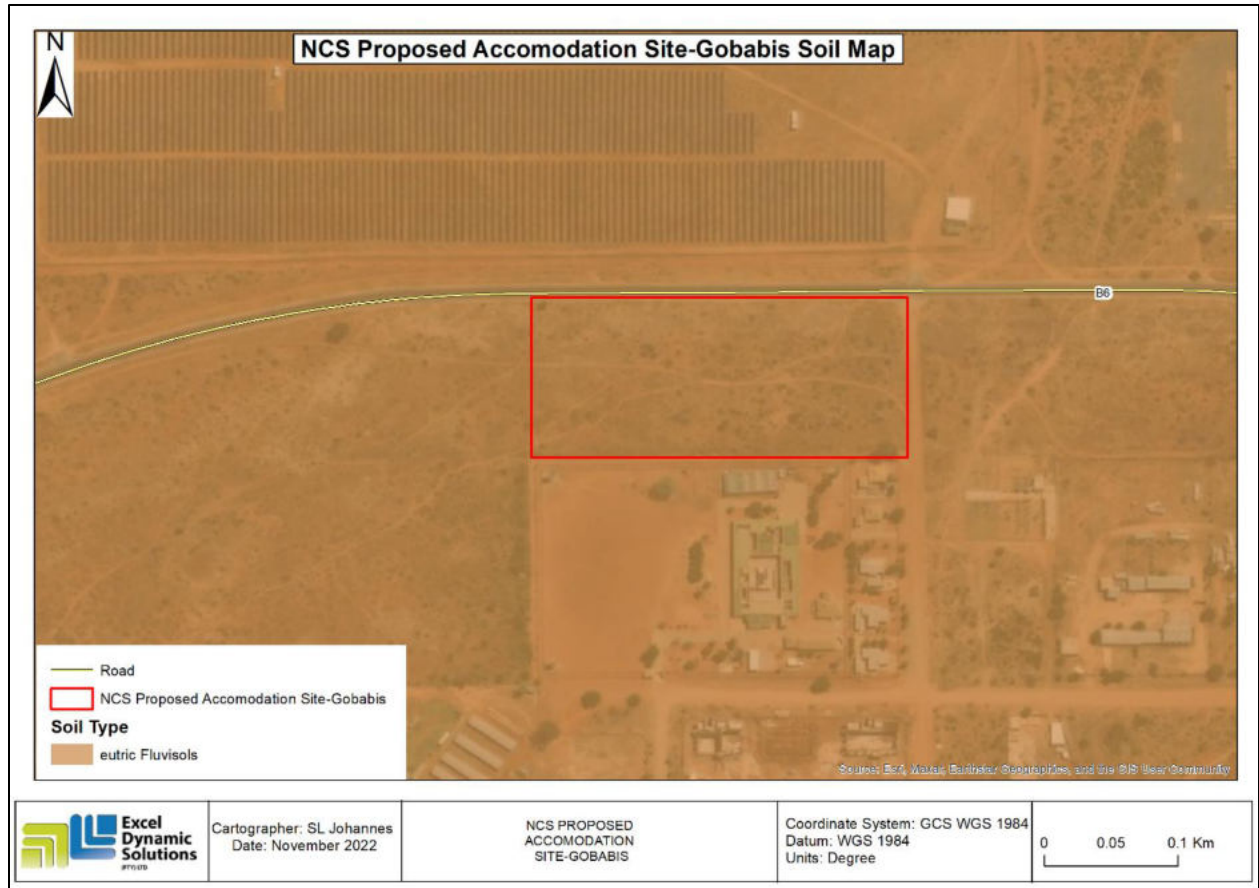


Figure 5-8: The dominant soil found within and around the site

Typical soil found onsite comprises of reddish and light brown sandy loamy soils - in Figure 5-9.



Figure 5-9: The sandy loamy soils observed onsite

5.4 Water Resources: Groundwater and Surface Water

The site area falls within the Hochfeld-Dordabis-Gobabis Groundwater Basin, stretching from the east of Windhoek to the eastern Namibian border. According to Lohe *et al.*, (2021), a porous aquifer exists to the northeast of Gobabis where Kalahari sediments overlies quartzites. The drilling of well (correctly) sited boreholes can tap a combination of primary porous and secondary fractured aquifers. Furthermore, most of the groundwater basin is underlain by either schist or sandstone/quartzite, which have inherently different water-bearing characteristics (Lohe *et al.*, 2021). Groundwater within the project area is hosted in fractured, fissured and karstified aquifers as indicated by blue lines on the map Figure 5-10. There are also several boreholes within Gobabis Town but not onsite – as shown in the Figure below.

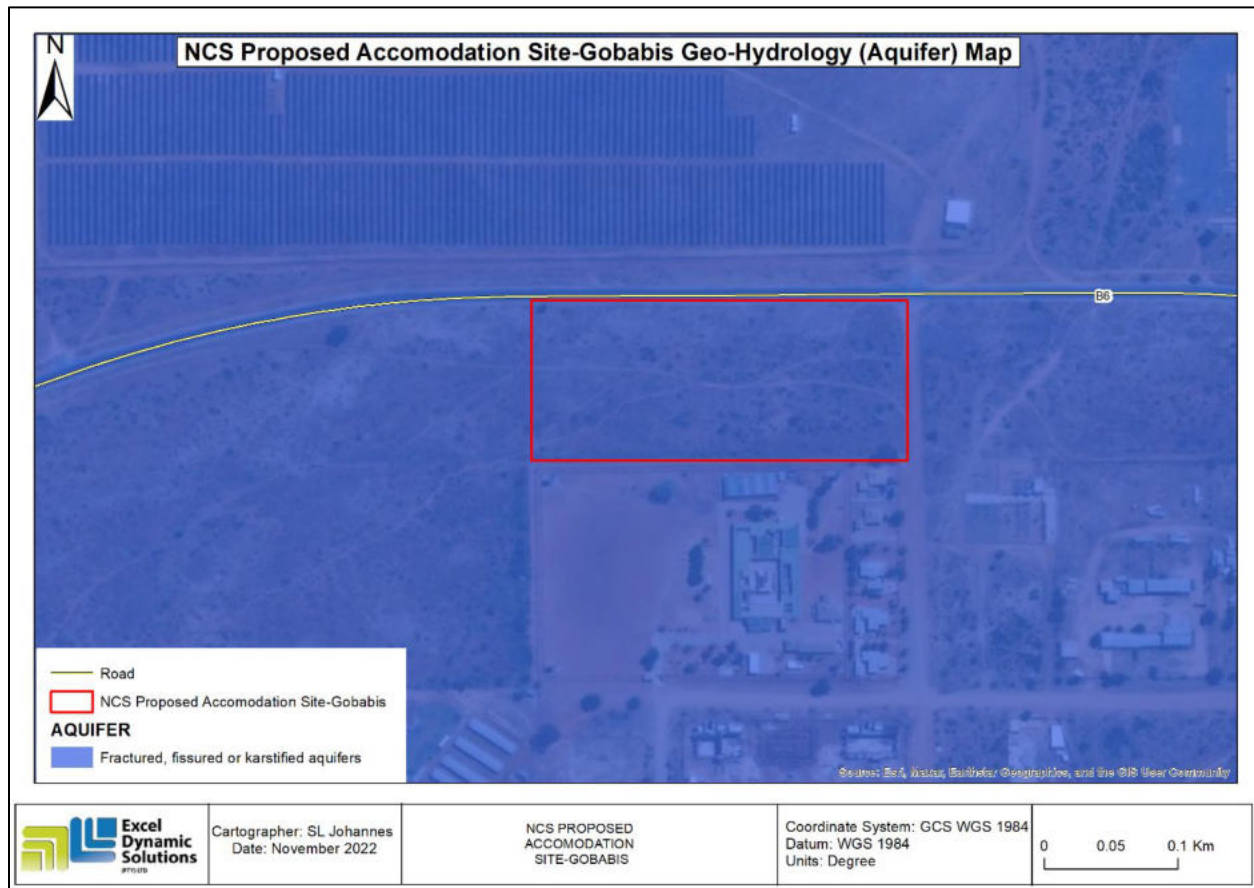


Figure 5-10: The hydrology and groundwater of the Project area

5.5 Biodiversity: Fauna and Flora

According to Omaheke Regional Council (2015), despite the unfavorable temperature of the central Nama-Karoo Basin that is flanked by the Namib Desert in the west and the Kalahari Desert

and shrub savanna in the east, The Omaheke Region has the advantage of showcasing the Sperrgebiet area in the south-western corner of the Region, which is an internationally recognised hotspot for biodiversity and area of conservation importance.

5.5.1 Fauna

The project site is situated in a Town that has been cleared to pave way for development in in the past. The establishment of structures and constant movement of people and vehicles would been a nuisance to mammals to inhabit the site area. Therefore, there are no mammals were observed onsite. There is a possibility of small animals such as reptiles in the site soils.

5.5.2 Flora

The site is covered by some dense grass and sparsely distributed shrubs. The dominant vegetation map of the area is shown in Figure 5-11 (woodland shrubs). Some photos of the common vegetation species observed within and near the site are shown in Figure 5-12.

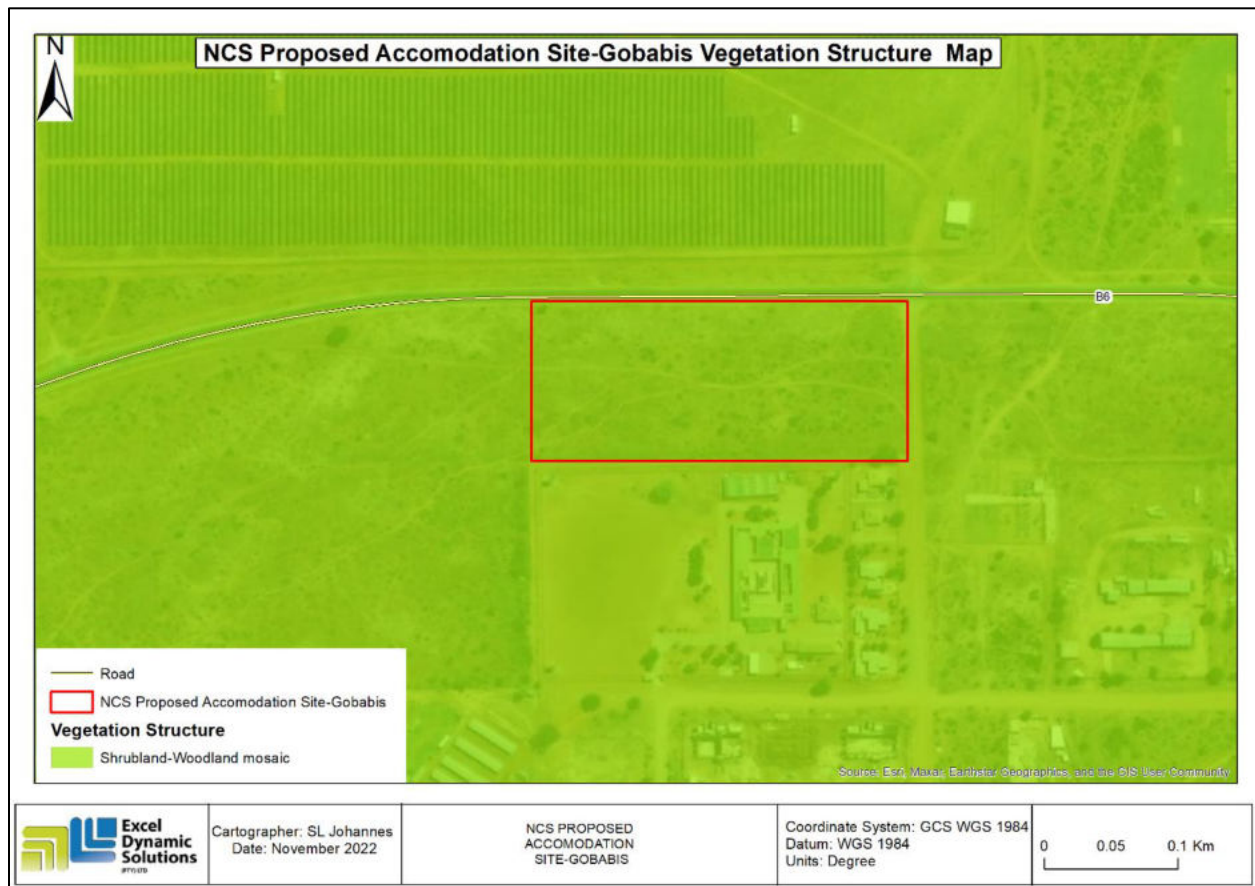


Figure 5-11: Dominant vegetation (woodland shrubs) around the site

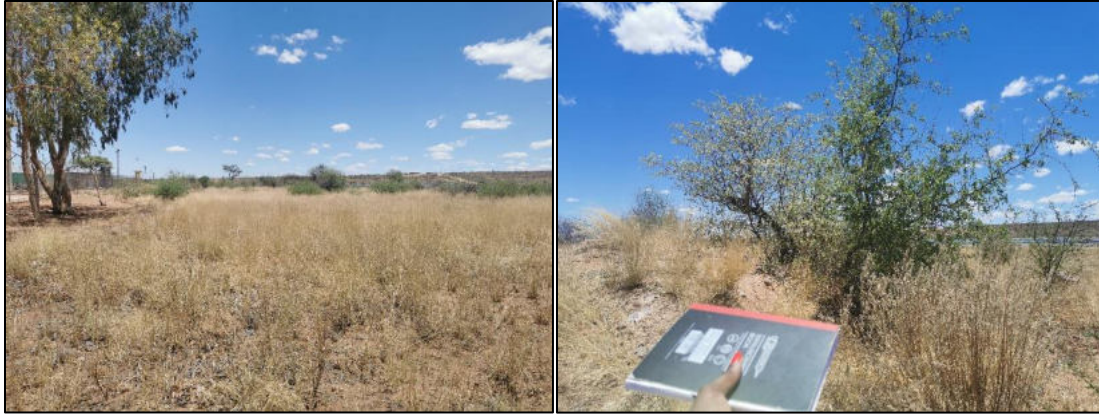


Figure 5-12: The shrubs and grass cover within the site and three trees at the fence of the NCS premises

5.6 Social Conditions

5.6.1 Demography

By 2011, Omaheke Region had a population of 71,233 (34,016 females and 32,217 males) (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2011). The Region is vast with a total land surface area of 84,612 square kilometers (km²), making up 10.3% of the country's land surface (Omaheke Regional Council, 2015).

The project site is located with the Gobabis Urban Constituency, which had a population of 20,993 in 2011, comprising 10,671 women and 10,322 men (Omaheke Regional Council, 2015).

5.7 Economic Activities

In terms of economic activities, the fundamental pillars of economy in the Omaheke Region are the Trans-Kalahari Corridor, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, industrial development, mining, and natural resources (Omaheke Regional Council, 2015).

The main sources of income of the Constituency as per the Namibia Statistics Agency (2014) were farming (3%), wages & salaries (66%), cash remittance (9%), business, non-farming (10%) and pension (9%).

The Gobabis Town has potential of economic development and business growth. The main economic sectors in the Town and Constituency are as follows (Omaheke Regional Council, 2015):

- Agriculture and Beef Production: to enhance the agriculture in the region the town of Gobabis has four marketing facilities for livestock, namely Karoo, Agra and WLA, Gobabis Abattoir and Meatco Feedlot.
- Tourism and Accommodation: Gobabis accommodation can be found at SafariNow.com which has a selection of Lodge, Bed and Breakfast, Camping and Caravanning holiday accommodations in Gobabis and surrounds. The site features ten listings, an online map search and competitive prices. The common accommodation facilities in the Town are guest houses, Bed& Breakfast, self-catering flats and campsites.
- Housing development: Even though there is lack of serviced land, the housing demand remains high and as such Gobabis requires investors to support the Gobabis Municipality with the construction of houses as well as servicing of land.
- Other economic opportunities: micro finance projects such as Mushroom cultivation, Kanaan bread making, and Ombapa Utuku gardening (Omaheke Regional Council, 2015).

5.7.1 Infrastructure and Services

The Omaheke Region is well-serviced with roads, tarred and good gravel roads. The Project area has good and leveled gravel roads. There are also good health care centers, schools and other services.

The Region is supplied with electricity by the Central North Regional Electricity (CENORED) and in some areas by Namibia Power Utility (NamPower).

Water is supplied either through privately owned boreholes, mainly on commercial farms. For communal areas, water is supplied by the Directorate of (Rural) Water Supply & Sanitation Coordination (DWSSC) or Namibia water corporation (NamWater).

In terms of services and infrastructure in for the site area, the following are available:

- Water supply: NamWater supplies the Town with water from boreholes. The Town through the Municipal Council then supplies the residents, institutions, and businesses.
- Energy (power supply): NamPower supplies electricity to the town and then to houses and businesses alike.
- Sanitation: The Town is serviced with water borne system sewerage for serviced plots and formal houses.
- Health facilities: the Gobabis Town has five private doctor practices, four private pharmacies, one state hospital, one private health centre and state clinic.

- Financial institutions: there are about eight financial institutions including Bank Windhoek, First National Bank, Standard Bank, NamPost, Old Mutual, Metropolitan, Orion Financia and Letsego.
- Telecommunication Network: Telecommunication and delivery services providers include MTC Namibia, Telecom Namibia, and NamPost, respectively.

5.8 Archaeology, Cultural and Heritage Resources

During the site visit and personal interviews with the NCS officers, there are no known archaeological and heritage resources or sites recorded nor mapped on the surface of the site or immediate associated infrastructure.

To fulfil the requirements of the EMA and its 2012 EIA Regulations (Public Consultation: Section 21 to 24), the EDS Consultants consulted and engaged the stakeholders (interested and affected parties) as presented under the next chapter.

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Public consultation forms an important component of an Environmental Assessment (EA) process. It provides potential Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) with an opportunity to comment on and raise any issues relevant to the project for consideration as part of the assessment process, thus assisting the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) in identifying all potential impacts and to what extent further investigations are necessary. Public consultation can also aid in the process of identifying possible mitigation measures. Public consultation for this project has been done under the EMA and its EIA Regulations.

6.1 Pre-identified and Registered Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs)

Relevant and applicable national, regional, and local authorities, and other interested members of the public were identified. Pre-identified IAPs were contacted directly, while other parties who contacted the Consultant after project advertisement notices in the newspapers, were registered as IAPs upon their request. Newspaper advertisements of the project activities were placed in two widely read national newspapers in the Region (*The Namibian* and *New Era* Newspapers). The project advertisement/announcement ran for two consecutive weeks inviting members of the public to register as IAPs and submit their comments.

6.2 Communication with Stakeholders (Interested and Affected Parties)

Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations details the steps to be taken during a public consultation process and these have been used in guiding this process. Communication with IAPs with regards to the project was facilitated through the following means and in this order:

6.2.1 Compilation of the Background Information Document (BID)

A non-technical summary of the Project activities (background information document (BID)) containing brief information about the project activities was compiled and hand delivered to the competent authorities (for ECC application and Project registration) and circulated to all pre-identified and all new registered IAPs (upon request).

6.2.2 Newspaper Advertising (Public Notification)

Project Environmental Assessment notices were published in *The Namibian* and *New Era* Newspapers dated 07 & 14 October 2022, respectively – Appendix C. The adverts briefly provided information on the project activities, location, inviting the public to the consultation meeting, to register as IAPs and submit their comments/concerns.

6.2.3 Consultation Meetings

A consultation meeting was scheduled and held on the 09th of November 2022 in Gobabis. The meeting was scheduled for 11h30 at the NCS Gobabis Boardroom. The meeting was only attended by the Proponent's representatives and EDS Consultants as per the photo shown in Figure 6-1.



Figure 6-1: Consultation Meeting in Gobabis on the 09th of November 2022

Since the meeting was only attended by the Proponent and Environmental Consultants, the meeting was more of a discussion and there were no comments or issues from the Proponent. Therefore, there were no meeting minutes taken.

6.2.4 Public Notices (Posters) and Public Comments Period

A3 size printed posters were placed in Gobabis at the Epako Municipality in Gobabis (Figure 6-2) and Omaheke Region Council in Gobabis (Figure 6-3).



Figure 6-2: Public Notice at the Municipality of Gobabis' Epako Office Notice board

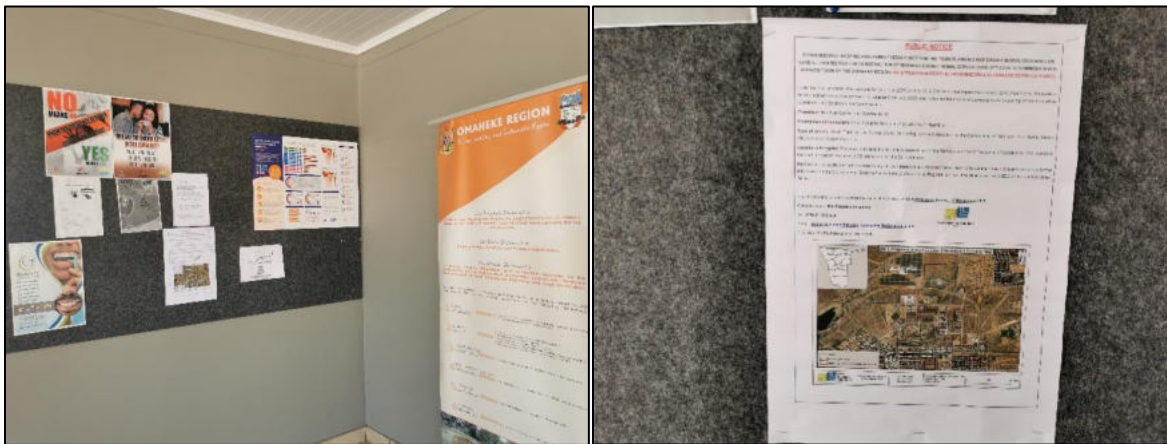


Figure 6-3: Public Notice at the Omaheke Regional Council Office Notice board

The comments and registration request period ran from 07 October to 28 October 2022 with an extension after the consultation meeting to 09 November 2022. There were no comments or issues submitted to EDS Consultants during this period.

7 IMPACT IDENTIFICATION, DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT

7.1 Impact Identification

There will be very little to no potential impacts with low significance associated with the rezoning/surveying, as the impacts will be more associated with the construction (establishment) of the planned infrastructure/structure and minimally operational phase. Therefore, these potential impacts are collectively listed, and assessed hereon. The impacts are assessed to ensure that these impacts are addressed by providing adequate mitigation measures such that an impact's significance is brought under control, while maximizing the benefits of the project. The potential impacts associated with the project activities are as follow:

Positive impacts:

- The successful rezoning of the land will lead to the development of the land to establish decent and better accommodation for the NCS officers who are dedicated to rehabilitate offenders.
- Temporary creation of employment during construction and possibly operational phase
- Increased support for local businesses through the procurement of locally available goods and services during construction.

Potential Negative impacts (mainly during the actual construction of the facility):

- Physical land/soil disturbance
- Waste generation – improper disposal of wastes may lead to environmental pollution.
- Air quality issue owing to dust generation
- Vehicular traffic safety and services infrastructure (local roads).
- Dust (air quality) generated by project related traffic travelling on the unpaved access roads may compromise the local air quality.
- Noise generated by project related equipment and vehicles may be a nuisance.
- Health and safety (occupation and community).
- Loss of biodiversity: the rezoning and eventual construction works may lead to the disturbance of site flora and possible faunal habitats.

7.2 Impact Assessment Methodology and Criteria

The Environmental Assessment process primarily ensures that potential impacts that may occur from project activity are identified and addressed with environmentally cautious approaches and legal compliance. The impact assessment method used for this project is in accordance with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and its Regulations of 2012, as well as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

The identified impacts were assessed in terms of scale/extent (spatial scale), duration (temporal scale), magnitude (severity) and probability (likelihood of occurring), as presented in Table 7-1.

To enable a scientific approach to the determination of the environmental significance, a numerical value is linked to each rating scale. This methodology ensures uniformity and that potential impacts can be addressed in a standard manner so that a wide range of impacts are comparable. It is assumed that an assessment of the significance of a potential impact is a good indicator of the risk associated with such an impact. The following process will be applied to each potential impact:

- Provision of a brief explanation of the impact.
- Assessment of the pre-mitigation significance of the impact; and
- Description of recommended mitigation measures.

The recommended mitigation measures prescribed for each of the potential impacts contribute towards the attainment of environmentally sustainable operational conditions of the Project for various features of the biophysical and social environment. The following criteria were applied in this impact assessment:

Table 7-1: Criteria used for impact assessment (extent, duration, intensity and probability)

The Criteria used to assess the potential impacts				
Extent or (spatial scale)- extent is an indication of the physical and spatial scale of the impact.				
Low (1)	Low/Medium (2)	Medium (3)	Medium/High (4)	High (5)
Impact is localised within the site boundary: Site only	Impact is beyond the site boundary: Local	Impacts felt within adjacent biophysical and social environments: Regional	Impact widespread far beyond site boundary: Regional	Impact extend National or over international boundaries

The Criteria used to assess the potential impacts				
Duration- Duration refers to the timeframe over which the impact is expected to occur, measured in relation to the lifetime of the project				
Low (1)	Low/Medium (2)	Medium (3)	Medium/High (4)	High (5)
Immediate mitigating measures, immediate progress	Impact is quickly reversible, short-term impacts (0-5 years)	Reversible over time; medium term (5-15 years)	Impact is long-term	Long term; beyond closure; permanent; irreplaceable or irretrievable commitment of resources
Intensity, Magnitude / severity - Intensity refers to the degree or magnitude to which the impact alters the functioning of an element of the environment. This a qualitative type of criteria				
H-(10)	M/H-(8)	M-(6)	M/L-(4)	L-(2)
Very high deterioration, high quantity of deaths, injury of illness / total loss of habitat, total alteration of ecological processes, extinction of rare species	Substantial deterioration, death, illness or injury, loss of habitat / diversity or resource, severe alteration, or disturbance of important processes	Moderate deterioration, discomfort, partial loss of habitat / biodiversity or resource, moderate alteration	Low deterioration, slight noticeable alteration in habitat and biodiversity. Little loss in species numbers	Minor deterioration, nuisance or irritation, minor change in species / habitat / diversity or resource, no or very little quality deterioration.
Probability of occurrence - Probability describes the likelihood of the impacts occurring. This determination is based on previous experience with similar projects and/or based on professional judgment				
Low (1)	Medium/Low (2)	Medium (3)	Medium/High (4)	High (5)
Improbable; low likelihood; seldom. No known risk or vulnerability to natural or induced hazards.	Likely to occur from time to time. Low risk or vulnerability to natural or induced hazards	Possible, distinct possibility, frequent. Low to medium risk or vulnerability to natural or induced hazards.	Probable if mitigating measures are not implemented. Medium risk of vulnerability to natural or induced hazards.	Definite (regardless of preventative measures), highly likely, continuous. High risk or vulnerability to natural or induced hazards.

7.3 Impact Significance

Impact significance is determined through a synthesis of the above impact characteristics. The significance of the impact “without mitigation” is the main determinant of the nature and degree of

mitigation required. As stated in the introduction to this section, for this assessment, the significance of the impact without prescribed mitigation actions is measured.

Once the above factors (Table 7-1) have been ranked for each potential impact, the impact significance of each is assessed using the following formula:

$$\text{SIGNIFICANCE POINTS (SP)} = (\text{MAGNITUDE} + \text{DURATION} + \text{SCALE}) \times \text{PROBABILITY}$$

The maximum value per potential impact is 100 significance points (SP). Potential impacts were rated as high, moderate or low significance, based on the following significance rating scale (Table 7-2).

Table 7-2: Significance rating scale

<i>Significance</i>	<i>Environmental Significance Points</i>	<i>Colour Code</i>
High (positive)	>60	H
Medium (positive)	30 to 60	M
Low (positive)	1 to 30	L
Neutral	0	N
Low (negative)	-1 to -30	L
Medium (negative)	-30 to -60	M
High (negative)	<-60	H

Positive (+) – Beneficial impact

Negative (-) – Deleterious/ adverse Impact

Neutral – Impacts are neither beneficial nor adverse

For a potential negative impact with a significance rating of high (-ve), mitigation measures are recommended to reduce the impact to a medium (-ve) or low (-ve) significance rating, provided that the impact with a medium significance rating can be sufficiently controlled with the recommended mitigation measures. To maintain a low or medium significance rating, monitoring

is recommended for a period to enable the confirmation of the significance of the impact as low or medium and under control.

For a potential positive impact with a significance rating of a medium (-ve) or low (-ve), mitigation measures are recommended to enhance the impact to a high (+ve) significance rating.

This assessment is based on the operational and maintenance phase. The potential impacts stemming from the project activities onsite are described, assessed and mitigation measures provided under the sections below. Further mitigation measures in a form of management action plans are provided in the Draft EMP.

7.4 Assessment of Potential Positive Impacts

The potential positive impacts of the project activities are described and assessed as follows.

7.4.1 Rezoning and Subsequent Accommodation for the NCS Officers

Some of the general benefits of the rezoning are that it enhances the beauty of an area by ensuring that the area is properly landscaped, keeping the commercial areas attractive and protect the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

The construction of the NCS accommodation will ensure that the officers have sufficient and up to standard accommodation facilities to continue implementing their mandate (in aiding towards the rehabilitation of inmates/offenders). The impact is assessed in Table 7-3 below.

Table 7-3: Assessment of rezoning and eventual accommodation provision

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre mitigation	L/M- 2	L/M - 2	L/M - 4	L - 1	L – 8
Measures to maximize the impact					
-The rezoned area should be designed in such a way that it enhances the project site and its surroundings to a better state than it was before rezoning.					
Post mitigation	M/H - 4	H - 5	M - 6	H - 5	H - 75

7.4.2 Job Creation and Employment Opportunities

Although there is no direct creation of employment opportunities during the rezoning phase, these opportunities are expected during the construction of the accommodation facilities through the appointed construction contractor. The assessment is presented in Table 7-4 below.

Table 7-4: Assessment of the project activities on local employment

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre mitigation	L/M- 2	L/M - 2	L/M - 4	L - 1	L - 8
Measures to maximize the impact					
-It should be mandatory to contractors to consider all local unskilled and semi-skilled people for construction. -There should be transparency in the notification of anticipated work opportunities and number of positions onsite. -Equal opportunities should be given to both men and women, where possible.					
Post mitigation	M/H - 4	H - 5	M - 6	H - 5	H - 75

7.5 Assessment of Potential Negative (Adverse) Impacts

The significant negative impacts potentially associated with the project (during the construction phase) are assessed below. The management and mitigation measures to avoid and or minimize the impact significance are provided in the Draft EMP.

7.5.1 Generation of Dust (Air Quality)

Dust emanating from site access roads when transporting construction materials to and from site may compromise the air quality in the area. Vehicular movements from heavy vehicles such as trucks would potentially create dust given that the existing access road is not tarred. However, given the size of the operations and duration of the construction, the impact is insignificant. The impact is assessed in Table 7-5.

Table 7-5: Assessment of the impacts of project activities on air quality

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre-mitigation	M - 3	M - 3	M/L - 4	M/H - 4	M - 40
Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures					
Post-mitigation	L - 1	L - 1	L - 2	L - 1	L - 4

7.5.2 Noise

There will be temporary noise from the accommodation construction works from heavy trucks and equipment onsite. The noise level is bound to be limited to the site only and short-term, therefore, currently, the impact significance is minor.

The noise created by these could be a nuisance to the neighboring properties. The impact will however be temporary (during construction), and therefore, the significance will be short term.

Without any measures in place, the impact significance would be medium and with the implementation of provided measures, the significance will be reduced to low. This impact is assessed in Table 7-6 below.

Table 7-6: Assessment of the impacts of noise from the project activities

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre mitigation	L/M - 2	L/M - 2	M - 6	M/H - 3	M - 30
<u>Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures</u>					
Post mitigation	L - 1	L/M - 2	L - 2	L/M - 2	L - 10

7.5.3 Soil Disturbance and Water Resources Pollution

The excavation of soils to enable construction works will result in the destruction of land (soils) which if not rehabilitated after construction works may lead to soil erosion.

There is an expectation of fuel usage and wastewater generation during construction. These products are the main source of soil and water resources pollution, if not handled with care. The anticipated potential source of pollution to water resources from the project activities would be hydrocarbons project vehicles and potential wastewater onsite during construction. The impact is assessed in Table 7-7 below.

Table 7-7: Assessment of the project impact on soils and water resources (pollution)

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre-mitigation	M - 3	M - 3	M/L - 4	M/H - 4	M - 40
<u>Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures</u>					
Post-mitigation	L - 1	L - 1	L - 2	L/M - 2	L - 8

7.5.4 Water Resources Use

Water resources is impacted by project activities in two ways, namely through pollution (water quality) or over-abstraction (water quantity) or at times both. For this project, the water for construction and subsequent supplied from the municipal supply line, therefore, direct impact on

the water resources through supply (quantity) by the project is none. The assessment of this impact is presented in the Table 7-8 below.

Table 7-8: Assessment of the project impact on water resource use and availability

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre-mitigation	M - 3	M/H - 4	M - 6	M - 3	M - 39
<u>Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures</u>					
Post-mitigation	L - 1	L - 1	L - 2	L/M - 2	L - 8

7.5.5 Environmental Pollution (Waste Generation)

The proposed construction will be associated with a generation of different kind of wastes. Improper disposal of wastes generated during the project phases may lead to environmental degradation/pollution. If the generated waste is not handled and disposed of in a responsible way, solid waste would be scattered in the area resulting in environmental pollution (land degradation) on or around the site. The assessment of this impact is given in Table 7-9.

Table 7-9: Assessment of waste generation impact

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre-mitigation	L/M - 2	L/M - 2	M - 6	M - 3	M - 30
<u>Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures</u>					
Post-mitigation	L - 1	L - 1	L - 2	L/M - 2	L - 8

7.5.6 Occupational and Community Health and Safety

During the construction of the accommodation facility, the site workers may be exposed to health and safety risks. These are in terms of accidental injury, owing to superficial physical injury or involving heavy machinery or vehicles. This would occur if the construction heavy vehicle, and equipment area are not properly secured to prevent any harm or injury to the Proponent's personnel or people passing by the site during construction.

The operation of some construction equipment and machinery on site may result in accidental fire outbreaks. This could pose a safety risk to the project personnel and equipment and vehicles too. This impact is assessed in Table 7-10 below.

Table 7-10: Assessment of the impact on occupational and community health and safety

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre-mitigation	M - 3	M - 3	M - 6	M/H - 4	M - 48
<u>Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures</u>					
Post-mitigation	L/M - 2	L/M - 2	L - 2	L/M - 2	L - 12

7.5.7 Vehicular Traffic Use and Safety

During construction, there will be a movement of slow-moving vehicles such as trucks, medium and small vehicles frequent site to deliver material and carry away waste. The presence of slow moving heavy vehicular traffic along the access roads which would be felt by the local road users may cause traffic congestion and potential accidents. However, only so many times a week or even monthly that the project related vehicles will be frequenting the site. Therefore, the risk is anticipated to be short-term, not frequent, and therefore of medium significance. The impact is assessed in Table 7-11 below.

Table 7-11: Assessment of the impacts of project activities on road use (vehicular traffic)

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre-mitigation	M - 3	M/H - 4	L/M - 4	M/H - 4	M - 44
<u>Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures</u>					
Post-mitigation	L/M - 2	L/M - 2	L - 2	L/M - 2	L - 12

7.5.8 Disturbance to Archaeological and Heritage resources

The site is covered by grass and young shrubs, which made it difficult to pick up any objects of archaeological or cultural significance. Therefore, the presence of archaeological resources could not be confirmed. There was no information provided about neither known heritage nor site of cultural values within the site nor in the vicinity of the project site area noted by the NCS personnel who escorted the EDS Consultant to site. However, this does not mean rule out the possibility of finding some of these objects during the construction where earthworks will be carried out, there

is a potential of discovering such resources through inadvertent destruction during trenching onsite. Therefore, without any mitigation in place, the impact is rated slightly medium. The impact is assessed in Table 7-12.

Table 7-12: Assessment of the impacts of construction works on archaeological & heritage

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre mitigation	M/H - 4	M - 3	M - 6	M - 3	M - 39
<u>Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures</u>					
Post mitigation	L/M - 2	L/M - 2	L - 2	L/M - 2	L - 12

7.5.9 Impact on Biodiversity (Fauna and Flora)

Fauna: The trenching activities for construction earthworks would result in land degradation, leading to habitat loss for a diversity of flora and fauna such as microorganisms and small organisms on vegetation and in the subsurface. The site activities will be limited within the site and trenching will only be done at specific site areas to erect buildings and install service cables.

Flora: the direct impacts on flora and vegetation communities would mainly occur through clearing of the site shrubs to enable construction works and associated activities. The site is dominated by grass and some sparsely distributed shrubs. These are not protected nor requiring permit to remove. Therefore, the impact is manageable. The impact is assessed in Table 7-13.

Table 7-13: Assessment of the impacts of project activities on biodiversity (fauna and flora)

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre-mitigation	M - 3	M - 3	M - 6	M/H - 4	M - 48
<u>Please refer to the EMP for Management and Mitigations measures</u>					
Post-mitigation	L/M - 2	L/M - 2	L/M - 4	L/M - 2	L - 16

8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The potential impacts that are anticipated from the project activities were identified, described, and assessed. For the significant adverse (negative) impacts with medium rating, appropriate management and mitigation measures were recommended for implementation by the Proponent.

The interested and affected parties (IAPs) and stakeholders were consulted as per the EMA and its 2012 EIA Regulations (Section 21 to 24). This was done via the two newspapers used for this environmental assessment, i.e., *New Era* and *The Namibian* of 07 and 14 October 2022. A consultation meeting was scheduled, meeting invitations sent to the registered IAPs and stakeholders. The meeting was held in Gobabis on the 09th of November 2022. No comments nor concerns were made and raised on project activities throughout the consultation period.

The potential adverse impacts identified by the Environmental Consultant were found to be of medium rating significance. With the effective implementation the recommended management and mitigation measures, significance of these impacts will be reduced to low rating. To maintain the desirable rating, the implementation of management and mitigation measures, it is highly recommended that the Proponent or the construction Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to conduct the EMP implementation monitoring. Monitoring will not only be done to avoid impacts or maintain their desired rating, but to also ensure that all potential adverse impacts identified in this study and other impacts that might arise during Project implementation are properly and timely identified and addressed accordingly.

The Scoping assessment is deemed sufficient and conclude that no further detailed assessments are required to the ECC application.

Based on the assessment done for the proposed rezoning and eventual construction and operation of the NCS Officers' accommodation facility in Gobabis, the project and its associated activities do not pose a significant risk to the environment. However, it is highly recommended that the measures provided are effectively implemented and monitoring to protect the biophysical and social environment throughout the project duration.

8.1 Recommendations

The EDS Consultants are confident that the potential negative impacts associated with the project activities can be managed and mitigated by the effective implementation of the recommended

management and mitigation measures. This would also be improved by more effort and commitment towards monitoring the implementation of these measures.

It is therefore, recommended that the project activities be granted an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The Proponent will be required to ensure that:

- All the management and mitigation measures provided in the Draft EMP are effectively and progressively implemented and monitored.
- All required approval consents (particularly from the Gobabis Municipality) for the certain activities should be obtained as required and ensuring compliance with the specific conditions and legal requirements attached thereto.
- All project personnel, contractors, and visitors onsite (during construction) comply with the legal requirements governing their project and its associated activities.
- The disturbed areas owing to the project activities during construction should be rehabilitated, as far as practicable.

8.2 Conclusions

Based on the assessment conducted for the proposed site and its planned activities, the project and its associated activities do not pose a significant risk to the environment that would hinder its implementation. However, it is highly recommended that the measures provided are effectively implemented and monitoring to protect the biophysical and social environment throughout the project duration.

9 LIST OF REFERENCES

1. Lohe, C., Amster, R. and Swartz, B. (2021). (editors). Groundwater in Namibia: An Explanation to the Hydrogeological Map. Windhoek: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.
2. Meteoblue (2022). Meteoblue Weather: Simulated historical climate & weather data for Gobabis. Available from https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/historyclimate/climatemodelled/gobabis_namibia_3357247 Accessed 04 September 2022.
3. Namibia Statistics Agency. (2014). 2011 Population and Housing Census: Omaheke Profile 2011, Census Regional Profile. Windhoek: Namibia Statistics Agency.
4. Omaheke Regional Council. (2015). Omaheke Regional Development Profile. Gobabis. Omaheke Regional Council.
5. World Weather Online. (2022). Gobabis - Omaheke Region, Namibia Weather. Available from: <https://www.worldweatheronline.com/gobabis-weather-averages/omaheke/na.aspx> Accessed 04 September 2022.