## **1 PROOF OF CONSULTATIONS**

Section 21 of the EIA Regulation requires the undertaking of an Environmental Scoping (ES) to follows a robust stakeholder consultation. This is an important process, because it gives members of the public, Interested and Affected Parties (I&Aps) to comment or raise concerns that may affect their socio-economic or general environment because of the project. Further, it solicits crucial local knowledge that the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) may not have.

Stakeholder consultation focused on the community of Omundaungilo Community Forest, Oukwanyama Traditional Authority (Annex 1).

## 1.1 Omundaungilo Community Consultation

A meeting was held with members (Villagers) of Omundaungilo Community Forest on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Omundaungilo Settlement (**Figure** *I*).



**Figure 1.** Community Meeting at Omundaungilo Community Forest 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (*Source: Red-Dune Consulting 2024*).

• The meeting was attended by 34 people, 10 women and 24 (Annex 1).

- Mr. Ipeinge Mundjulu for Red-Dune Consulting presented the background of the project *"Brick to Conserve"* and the meeting objectives. He informed the meeting about the request that Omundaungilo Community Forest made to CCFN to be support with their proposed brick making project which has been approved by CCFN.
- The meeting was informed that, the project is funded by the German development bank, KfW which require that the money is spent wisely and accounted for to the benefit of the community and ensure that project implementing agencies observe the highest standard of Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) which aims to ensure that the project is environmental and social sustainability.
- The meeting was informed that, the ESS requirement does not support projects if amongst others, it involves:
  - o Displacement of people
  - Destroying heritage sites
  - Damaging critical biodiversity habitat
  - Causing general conflict in the community
- Furthermore, the meeting was informed that, the proposed site must not be on an occupied land.
- The meeting was further informed that the protection of the environment is provided for under the Environmental Management Act 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) (EMA) and its Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 2012. The EMA has listed developmental activities that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). Although 'Brick Making' is not entirely a listed activity, it involves 'sand mining' which is a listed activity. Hence an Environmental Scoping must be undertaken and an Environmental Management Plan needs to be developed for the project.
- To obtain an ECC, a Social and Environmental Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which is one of the core components of the consultation.
- Lastly the meeting was informed that, a consent letter is one of the requisites for the project to be implemented. This consent letter, called 'Free Prior Informed Consent' (FPIC) represent the community in understanding and agreeing to the proposed project. The FPIC was explained to the community as follows;
  - **FREE** refers to a consent given voluntarily and absent of coercion, intimidation, or manipulation.

- **PRIOR** means consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities
- **INFORMED** means that community was well informed about the project and they know all information about the project.
- **CONSENT** refers to the collective decision made by the rights-holders and reached through the customary decision-making processes of the affected peoples or communities.
- Free Prior Informed Consent was verbally obtained from the meeting by show of hands and a FPIC letter was read to the community, read, and signed by the village headman (Figure 4).



Figure 2. Omundaungilo Forest Community consent

- The community enquired the following;
  - Welcomed the approval of their request by CCFN and urged all villages within the Omundaungilo Community Forest to work together.
  - A community member raised concern about lack of water at the project site.
    - Management Omundaungilo Community Forest informed the meeting that there are various earth dams in Omundaungilo which hold water throughout the year. While sourcing alternative water sources such as rehabilitating existing none functioning boreholes in the area, the project will collect water from earths dams.
  - A community member inquired if a permit would be required to collect water from earth dams.

- Red Dune informed the meeting that, collecting of water from earth dams by community members does not require a permit or license, however, it should be done with consent from the area headman.
- The meeting enquired on what will happen if the project aims to expand to other villages within the Omundaungilo Community Forest, will it also require another ECC.
  - Red-Dune informed the meeting that the ECC is approved for a sitespecific project hence another Environmental Scoping will be required to obtain an ECC for the specific site / area.
- The meeting adjourned with a prayer, and a site assessment with the community was undertaken (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Site Assessments with the community of Omundaungilo Community Forest



## 1.2 Annex 1. Attendance Register

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