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REPORT:

SCOPING REPORT WITH IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 8728, ERONGO REGION, NAMIBIA

PROJECT NUMBER: ECC-79-420-REP-05-B

REPORT VERSION: REV 01

DATE: APRIL 2023



TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGE

Project Name: Scoping report with impact assessment for exploration activities
on EPL 8728, Erongo Region, Namibia

Client Company Name: Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd

Client Representatives: Mr Murray Hill

Ministry Reference: APP - 000056

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Status of Report: Draft for Public Review

Project Number: ECC-79-420-REP-05-B

Date of issue: April 2023

Review Period: NA

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¹ J. Bezuidenhout is seconded to Elevate for in country company management duties.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as "The Proponent") intends to carry out exploration activities for nuclear fuels on EPL 8728 in the Erongo Region. The EPL is located about 100km east of Walvis Bay and can be accessed from the C14 road, by turning north along the D1998 road.

The proposed Project triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007, and its regulations, No. 30 of 2012. Therefore, an environmental clearance certificate is required. As part of the environmental clearance certificate application, a scoping report with an environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the Environmental Management Act, No.7 of 2007. This draft scoping report with assessment and the draft environmental management plan (EMP) will be submitted to the competent authority and the public for public review as part of the application process for the environmental clearance certificate.

The proposed activities within EPL 8728 include low-impact exploration such as geochemical surveys, ground and airborne geophysical surveys, and drilling. If new tracks are required, they will be developed using a 4X4.

The exploration activities will commence when the environmental clearance certificate is granted and are expected to continue for at least 3 years. A renewal application may be required to extend the activities for the duration of the exploration license.

The geology underlying the EPL area consists mainly of the Khomas group (i.e. Damara supergroup and Gariiep complex). The main rock type is metamorphic sedimentary rock, schist. Overlying the schist are lethic Leptosols of very thin or shallow soils and petric Calcisols. The latter are soils with a solid layer at a shallow depth that remains hard even when wet. The topography of the EPL area is relatively flat with rocky outcrops in the east as well as a small section of rocky outcrops to the northeast. The groundwater vulnerability in this area is considered to be low to very low, and groundwater recharge within this area is also very low (0.5% of the total average rainfall). The plant diversity is between 150 and 300 species for this area, with a medium diversity ranking of 4 out of 7). The dominant vegetation structure within the EPL is partially central-western escarpment and inselbergs and central desert. The vegetation type is sparse shrubland and Namib grassland. The overall terrestrial diversity for the area is low compared to other areas of the country.

The following table summarises the outcomes of the impact assessment of the key aspects and the potentially significant impacts that could arise from the exploration activities. The significance rating is provided after the mitigations have been considered.

Aspect	Potential impact	Significance with mitigation
Surface and groundwater	Hydrocarbon leaks and spills could enter the aquifer causing contamination	Low (2)
Soil	Pollution of soil from hazardous and hydrocarbon waste	Low (1)
	Increased exposure due to possible vegetation clearance can cause soil erosion	Low (1)
	Loss of soil quality due to mixing of earth matter, trampling and compaction	Low (1)
Air quality, visual impacts and sense of place	Air quality, visual disturbance and loss of sense of place from exploration activities	Minor (4)
Socio-economic impacts such as employment, and land-use	Conflict with farm owners about access, leaving gates open, suspicious movements, loss of farming area, etc.	Low (1)
	Presence of exploration team could be blamed for stock theft and wildlife poaching.	Low (1)
	Promotes job creation, skills development, and opportunities for the local economy.	Low (Beneficial)
Noise and vibrations	Perceived noise impact on wildlife, livestock and humans due to low flying airplanes or helicopter from airborne surveys	Low (1)
	Resident, slow-moving and nesting organisms may be disturbed by excessive noise or vibrations from drilling	Low (1)
Biodiversity and ecology	Loss or alteration of terrestrial habitats and loss of species	Low (1)
	Resident and nesting organisms such as reptiles can be disturbed, injured or killed from falling down open drill holes.	Low (1)
	Alien species and weeds can be introduced to the area from uncleaned machinery.	Low (1)
Heritage, culture, history, archaeology, and palaeontology	Potential damage to cultural heritage sites	Minor (4)

Impacts with respect to airborne dust are expected to be limited to vehicular traffic and drilling activities. There will be some release of exhaust fumes from machinery that will impact the immediate vicinity, but this will be of short duration. Noise impacts include those associated with drilling and other machine noise, which could be a disturbance to immediate neighbours, but this will be short in duration as well. The analysis of the impacts and the identification of mitigation and management methods concludes that the likely significance of effects on humans from the cumulative impacts of physical disturbance, noise, dust, and emissions is expected to be minor with a temporary qualitative reduction in the sense of place.

Continual engagement with the Management of the Namib-Naukluft National Park must be undertaken by the Proponent to identify any concerns or issues, and additional appropriate mitigation and management measures must be agreed upon and implemented.

The overall potential impact of this proposed Project is not considered significant as it does not exceed recognised levels of acceptable change, nor will it threaten the integrity of the receptors. The assessment is considered to be comprehensive and sufficiently identifies the potential impacts, and it is concluded that no further assessment will be required. The Preliminary EMP provides the necessary mitigations and management measures required to reduce potential impacts to accepted levels.

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TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS	DESCRIPTION
Abundant	indicates a high occurrence or abundance
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AMT	Audio Magneto Telluric
ASX	Australian Securities Exchange
BID	Background Information Document
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Common	indicates a frequent occurrence or abundance
DEA	Directorate of Environmental Affairs
DEA/MEFT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism
E	East
EC	Environmental Commissioner
ECC	Environmental Compliance Consultancy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EM	Electromagnetic
EMA	Environmental Management Act, No.7 of 2007
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
endemic	species that are native and restricted to a particular geographic region
ENE	east - northeast
EPL	Exclusive Prospecting Licence
ESE	east - southeast
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GG	Government Gazette
GIS	Geographic Information System
GN	Government Notice
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
L	Litre
low	indicates a low level of diversity or abundance
km ²	kilometres squared
km/h	kilometres per hour
m	abbreviation for meter, used to indicate height or length in metric units.
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services

ABBREVIATIONS	DESCRIPTION
mm	Millimetre
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
moderate	indicates a moderate level of diversity or abundance
NDP	National Development Plan
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSA	National Statistics Agency
Occasional	indicates sporadic occurrence or abundance
Quadrant	a quarter degree of latitude and longitude, used for mapping and surveying purposes
RAB	Rotary Air Blast
rare	indicates a low occurrence or abundance
RC	Reverse Circulation
RH	Relative Humidity
SOP	standard operating procedure
spp	abbreviation for species, used to refer to multiple species within a genus or group
SW	southwest
TB	tuberculosis
<i>U-pgrade™</i>	Uranium concentration process developed by Elevate Uranium
Uncommon	indicates a relatively low occurrence or abundance
var	abbreviation for variety, used in botanical nomenclature to indicate a subspecies or variety of a plant species
veld	Refers to open grasslands or savannahs in Southern Africa
WHO	World Health Organisation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 COMPANY BACKGROUND

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been retained by Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as "The Proponent") to conduct an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for the exploration of nuclear fuel minerals in terms of the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations of 2012. An environmental clearance certificate application will be submitted to the competent authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for a record of decision.

Elevate Uranium Limited is an Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) listed company. Elevate Uranium has developed a uranium concentration process (***U-pgrade™***) that is unique and ground-breaking, lowering the extraction cost of uranium and significantly reducing potential environmental effects associated with the reduced mass of ore to be leached. This ***U-pgrade™*** process can be applied to surficial uranium deposits for which Elevate Uranium is conducting exploration activities. Elevate Uranium is seeking further opportunities for uranium mining as the company undertakes exploration activities for Nuclear Fuel Minerals in the Erongo Region.

Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd (Marenica Ventures) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Elevate Uranium Limited (Elevate Uranium). Marenica Ventures holds the Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) for the proposed 'Hoasib' project (referred to as "the Project" herein). The project is located within exploration licence prospecting licence EPL 8728, and the proponent proposes to undertake mineral exploration activities specifically for nuclear fuels. The EPL is located 100 km east of Walvis Bay in the Erongo Region. The EPL can be accessed via the C14 road, and then turning north along the D1998 road. The EPL area is shown in Figure 1.

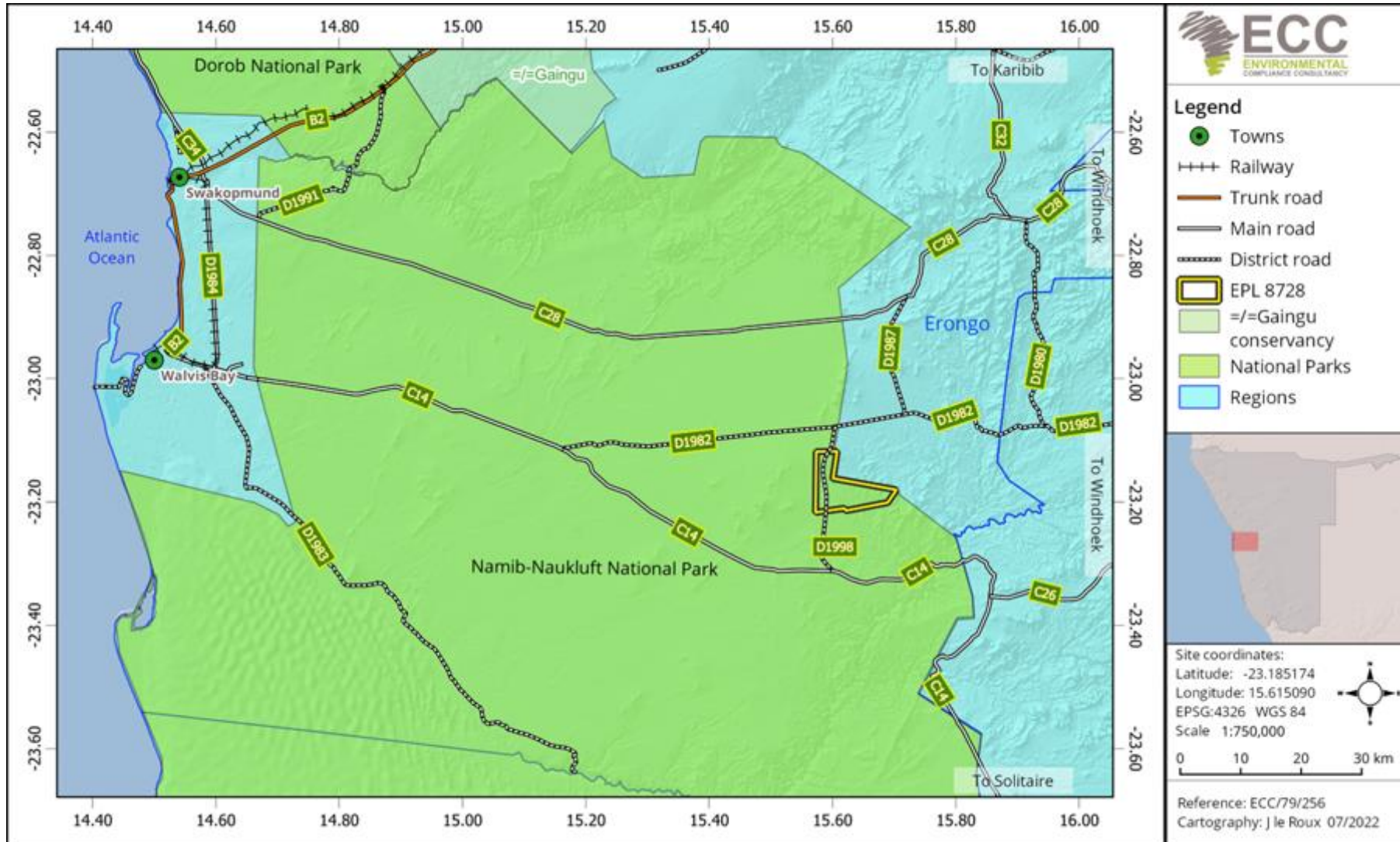


Figure 1 - Locality map of EPL 8728, Erongo Region

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE SCOPING REPORT

An environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) has commenced in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 (EMA 2007) and its regulations. The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the scoping study phase that forms part of the larger ESIA process.

The scoping report summarises the prescribed ESIA process followed, provides information on the baseline biophysical and socioeconomic environments, project description details, outlines the terms of reference for the assessment phase, and prepares a draft environmental management plan (EMP).

ECC's terms of reference for the assessment are strictly to address potential impacts, whether positive or negative, and their relative significance, explore alternatives for technical recommendations, and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

This report provides information to the public and stakeholders to aid in the decision-making process for the proposed Project. The objectives are to:

- Describe the proposed activity and the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, and the location of the activity on the site;
- Describe the environment that may be affected by the activity;
- Identify the laws and guidelines that have been considered in the assessment and preparation of this report;
- Provide details of the public consultation process;
- Describe the need and desirability of the activity;
- Provide a high-level environmental and social impact assessment on feasible alternatives that were considered; and
- Report the assessment findings, identifying the significance of effects, including cumulative effects, and effective and feasible mitigation measures.

In addition to the environmental assessment, a preliminary EMP (Appendix A) is also required in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007. A preliminary EMP (herein referred to as EMP) has been developed to provide a management framework for the planning and implementation of exploration activities. The EMP provides exploration standards and arrangements to ensure that the potential environmental and social impacts are mitigated, prevented, and/or minimised as far as reasonably practicable, and that statutory requirements and other legal obligations are fulfilled.

1.3 PROPONENT DETAILS

Table 1 - Proponent's details

Contact Person	Contact Details
Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd Mr Murray Hill (CEO)	murray.hill@elevateuranium.com +264 81 669 7608 C/O P O Box 90242 Klein Windhoek Windhoek, Namibia

1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

ECC (Pty) Ltd (CRN: 2022/0593), has prepared this scoping report with impact assessment on behalf of the Proponent. ECC operates exclusively in the environmental, social, health, and safety fields for clients across southern Africa, in both the public and private sectors. ECC is independent of the Proponent and has no vested or financial interest in the proposed Project, except for fair remuneration for professional services rendered². All compliance and regulatory requirements regarding this ESIA report should be forwarded by email or posted to the following address:

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² J.Beuzidenhout is seconded to Elevate for in country company management duties.

1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

The Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 stipulates that an environmental clearance certificate is required to undertake listed activities in terms of the Act and its regulations. Listed activities triggered by the Project in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations are listed in Table 2:

Table 2 - Listed activities triggered by the project.

LISTED ACTIVITY	AS DEFINED BY THE ACT	RELEVANCE TO THE PROJECT
Mining and quarrying activities	<p>(3.1) The construction of facilities for any process or activities that require a license, right, or other forms of authorisation, and the renewal of a license, right, or other forms of authorisation, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992.</p> <p>(3.2) Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources, whether regulated by law or not.</p> <p>(3.3) Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minerals (soil and sand), and nuclear fuel minerals will be sourced within the project's footprint. - The proponent may also undertake geochemical surveys, geophysical surveys, and RC drilling.
Waste management, treatment, handling and disposal activities	<p>(2.1) The construction of facilities for waste sites, treatment of waste, and disposal of waste.</p> <p>(2.3) The import, processing, use, and recycling, temporary storage, transit, or export of waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste generated, which will mainly consist of solid waste and general waste during the exploration phase, will be removed disposed of at the nearest landfill site. Waste will be recycled to the extent possible. - A portable toilet, a long drop hole for a toilet, or chemical toilets will be used during exploration activities by the drill crew.

LISTED ACTIVITY	AS DEFINED BY THE ACT	RELEVANCE TO THE PROJECT
Forestry activities	(4.) The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting, or any other related activity that requires authorisation in terms of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.	- Limited vegetation clearing may be required for tracks and survey access creation, and possibly for the set-up of survey and drilling teams' field camps. Any clearing of vegetation will require a permit from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT).
Water resource developments	(8.1) The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes.	- For the drilling of exploration boreholes water will be sourced from the nearest town.
Hazardous substance treatment, handling and storage	(9.2) Any process or activity that requires a permit, license, or another form of authorisation, or the modification of or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity that requires amendment of an existing permit, license, or authorisation or that requires a new permit, license, or authorisation in terms of governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution, effluent, or waste.	- Portable toilets, long drop holes for toilets, or chemical toilets will be used during the exploration activities.

2 APPROACH TO THE ASSESSMENT

2.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

This assessment aims to determine which impacts are likely to be significant, to scope the available data and identify any gaps that need to be filled, to determine the spatial and temporal scope, and to identify the assessment methodology.

The scope of the assessment was determined by undertaking a preliminary assessment of the proposed Project against the receiving environment, obtained through a desktop review and available site-specific literature.

2.2 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The ESIA methodology applied to this assessment has been developed using the International Finance Corporation (IFC) standards and models, in particular, Performance Standard 1, 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (International Finance Corporation, 2017) (International Finance Corporation, 2012), which establishes the importance of:

- Integrated assessment to identify the environmental and social impacts, risks, and opportunities of Projects;
- Effective community engagement through disclosure of Project-related information and consultation with local communities on matters that directly affect them; and
- The proponent's management of environmental and social performance throughout the life of the Project.

Furthermore, the Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for ESIA and EMP (Republic of Namibia, 2008), as well as international and national best practice, and over 25 years of combined EIA experience, were also drawn upon in the assessment process. This impact assessment is a formal process in which the potential effects of the Project on the biophysical, social, and economic environments are identified, assessed, and reported so that the significance of potential impacts can be taken into account when considering whether to grant approval, consent, or support for the proposed Project.

2.3 SCREENING OF THE PROJECT

The first stages in the ESIA process are to register the Project with the DEA/MEFT (completed) and undertake a screening exercise to determine whether it is considered a listed activity under the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and associated regulations, and if significant impacts may arise from the Project. The location, scale, and duration of Project activities will be considered against the receiving environment. The full ESIA process is shown in Figure 2.

The proposed Project is a listed activity and potential impacts could occur. Thus, it was concluded that a scoping report with impact assessment would suffice for the exploration project and that a preliminary EMP would be submitted with the scoping report as part of the application process for the environmental clearance certificate.

2.4 SCOPING AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Where a detailed assessment is required, the second stage is to scope the assessment. The main aims of this stage are to determine which impacts are likely to be significant; scope the available data and any gaps which need to be filled; determine the spatial and temporal scope and identify the assessment methodology.

The scoping phase of the Project is a preliminary analysis to determine ways in which the Project interacts with the biophysical, social, and economic environment. Potential impacts are identified, and the significance is assessed during the screening and scoping phase. The details and outcome of the impact assessment are discussed in sections 6 and 7 of this scoping report. Feedback from consultation with the proponent and stakeholders also informs the analysis of the impacts. The following environmental and social aspects were considered in the impact assessment process:

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- Procurement of goods and services within the local economy

BIOPHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Dust emissions
- Soil and geology
- Terrestrial ecology
- Terrestrial biodiversity (including fauna and flora)
- Surface and groundwater

2.5 BASELINE STUDIES

Baseline studies are undertaken as part of the scoping stage, which involves collecting all pertinent information from the current status of the receiving environment. This provides a baseline against which changes that occur as a result of the proposed Project can be measured. For the proposed Project, baseline information was obtained through a desktop study, consultation, and engagement with stakeholders (Appendix B), focusing on environmental receptors that could be affected by the proposed Project, and verified through site-specific information. The baseline information is covered in Chapter 5.

2.6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public participation and consultation are a requirement as stipulated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Regulations 21 and 23) of the EMA, No.7 of 2007, for a project

undertaking a listed activity that requires an environmental clearance certificate. Consultation is a compulsory and critical component of the ESIA process for achieving transparent decision-making and can provide many benefits. Consultation is ongoing during the ESIA process. The objectives of the public participation and consultation process are to:

- Provide information on the Project, introducing the overall project concept and planning in the form of a background information document (BID).
- Determine the relevant government, regional, and local regulating authorities.
- Listen to and understand community issues, record concerns and questions.
- Explain the process of the ESIA and the timeframes involved and establish a platform for ongoing consultation.

2.6.1 IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

A stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken to identify individuals or groups of stakeholders and the method by which they will be engaged during the ESIA process.

Stakeholders were approached through direct communication (letters and phone calls), the national press, or directly by email. A summarised list of stakeholders for this project is given below:

- The general public with an interest in the Project;
- Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT);
- Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME);
- Erongo Regional Council; and
- Walvis Bay and Swakopmund Town Councils and Municipalities.

The records of the public consultation process in the form of a summary report will provide a list of interested and affected parties (I&APs), evidence of consultation, including minutes of public meetings, advertisements in national newspapers, and a summary of the comments or questions raised by the public.

2.6.2 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The BID presents a high-level description of the proposed Project, sets out the ESIA process, and outlines when and how consultation will be undertaken. It also provides contact details for further Project-specific inquiries to all registered I&APs. The BID was distributed to registered I&APs, and it can be found in Appendix B.

2.6.3 NEWSPAPERS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Notices regarding the proposed Project and associated activities were circulated in three newspapers namely the 'Republikein, Sun, and Allgemeine Zeitung' on the 17th of October and 24th of October 2022 (see Appendix C). The purpose of this was to commence the consultation process

by informing the public about the Project and enabling I&APs to register any comments and interest raised for the Project.

2.6.4 SITE NOTICES

A site notice ensures neighbouring properties and stakeholders are made aware of the proposed Project. The notice was set up at the boundary of the EPL as illustrated in Appendix C.

2.6.5 PUBLIC MEETING

In terms of Section 22 of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations, to register I&APs. A public meeting is not a requirement during the public consultation process for all projects. The EAP decided not to arrange public meetings for the project but engage directly with stakeholders and invite all registered I&APs to raise their concerns and make comments in writing.

2.6.6 SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED

The I&APs were encouraged to provide constructive input during the consultation periods. Matters of concern raised during the initial round of consultation are presented in Appendix C. The public was further provided with an opportunity to send any comments on the draft scoping report with impact assessment and the EMP. These will be included and addressed, where applicable, in the final scoping report with impact assessment and the EMP.

2.7 DRAFT SCOPING REPORT WITH IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY EMP

The draft scoping report with impact assessment and preliminary EMP will be submitted to the public for review prior to submission to the competent authority and DEA. This report documented the findings of the assessment process, provides stakeholders with the opportunity to comment and continue to engage in consultation and forms part of the environmental clearance application.

The preliminary EMP provides measures to manage the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed Project and outlines specific roles and responsibilities to fulfil the plan. The draft documents will be updated with the additional comments that stem from the public review of the reports.

2.8 FINAL SCOPING REPORT WITH IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY EMP

The final scoping report with impact assessment, associated appendices will be available to all stakeholders on the ECC website <https://eccenvironmental.com/download/the-proposed-exploration-of-nuclear-fuels-on-epl-8728-8792-and-8795-erongo-region-namibia/> and MEFT portal at <http://eia.met.gov.na/>. All I&APs will be informed of this via email.

These same final documents are formally submitted to the competent authority, namely, the Ministry of Mines & Energy (MME). A copy of the submission proof and the same set of the documents are submitted to the Office of the Environmental Commissioner, DEA department, as part of the application for an environmental clearance certificate.

2.9 AUTHORITY ASSESSMENT AND DECISION MAKING

The Environmental Commissioner in consultation with the MME and other relevant authorities will assess the findings of the final scoping with impact assessment. If deemed acceptable, the Environmental Commissioner will revert to the Proponent with a record of decision and any recommendations. If the clearance is not granted, then reasons are normally provided. For example, it may be required for the Proponent to undertake a detailed assessment. A detailed assessment would most likely entail the commissioning of specialist studies with impact assessments.

2.10 MONITORING AND AUDITING

In addition to the EMP being implemented by the Proponent, a monitoring strategy and audit procedure will be determined by the Proponent and competent authority (i.e. MME). This will ensure that key environmental receptors are monitored over time to establish any significant changes from the baseline environmental conditions caused by Project activities.

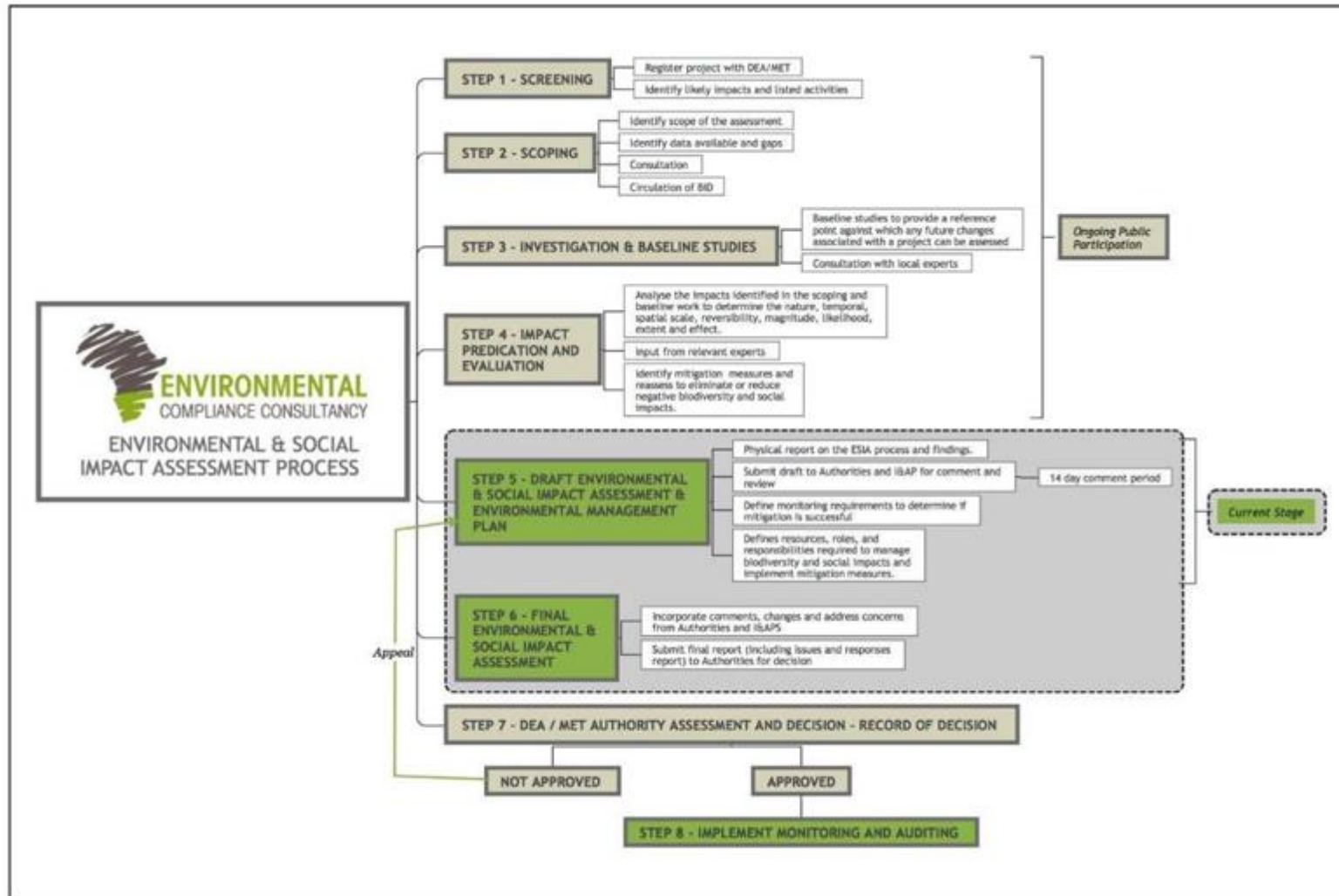


Figure 2 - ESIA Process

3 REVIEW OF THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

As stated in Section 1, an environmental clearance certificate is required for any activity listed in the Government Notice No. 29 of 2012 of the EMA 2007. The Project area is located within the Namib-Naukluft National Park and so the park's rules will apply to the activities.

A thorough review of relevant legislation has been conducted for the proposed Project. Table 3 below identifies relevant legal requirements specific to the Project. Table 4 provides the national policies and plans.

Table 5 specifies permits relevant to the Project. This chapter outlines the regulatory framework applicable to the proposed Project.

3.1 NATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Table 3 - Details of the regulatory framework as it applied to the proposed Project.

National Regulatory Regime	Summary	Applicability to the Project
Constitution of the Republic of Namibia (1990)	<p>The constitution defines the country's position about sustainable development and environmental management.</p> <p>The constitution says that the State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies aimed at the following:</p> <p>"Maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia, and the utilisation of living, natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present, and future."</p>	<p>The Proponent is committed to the sustainable use of the environment, and has aligned its corporate mission, vision, and objectives with this ambit of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia (1990).</p>
Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act No. 33 of 1992	<p>The Act provides for the granting of various licences related to mining and exploration.</p> <p>Section 50 (i) requires: "An environmental impact assessment indicating the extent of any pollution of the environment before any prospecting operations or mining operations are being carried out, and an estimate of any pollution, if any, likely to be caused by such prospecting operations or mining operations."</p> <p>The holder of the mineral licence is required to comply with its terms and conditions. The Act also contains relevant provisions for pollution control related to mining activities and land access agreements and provides provisions that mineral licence holders are</p>	<p>Exclusive Prospecting Licence EPL 8728 was issued to the Proponent in March 2022 and is valid for a period of 3 years. The proposed prospecting activity on EPL 8728 requires an EIA to be carried out, as it triggers listed activities as defined in Government notice 29 in the Environmental Management Act 2007.</p> <p>Prospecting activities in EPL 8728 shall not commence until an Environmental Clearance Certificate has been issued in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Management Act 2007.</p> <p>The Proponent shall be compliant with Section 76 of the Minerals Act with regard to records, maps, plans and</p>

National Regulatory Regime	Summary	Applicability to the Project
	liable for any damage to land, water, plant, or animal life, caused by spilling or pollution, and must take all such steps as may be necessary to remedy such spilling, pollution, loss, or damage, at its own costs.	financial statements, information, reports and returns submitted.
Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) and its regulations (2012), including the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2007 (No. 30 of 2011)	<p>The Act aims to promote sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources. The Act requires certain activities to obtain an environmental clearance certificate prior to Project development.</p> <p>The Act states that an EIA should be undertaken and submitted as part of the environmental clearance certificate application process.</p> <p>The MEFT is responsible for the protection and management of Namibia's natural environment. The Department of Environmental Affairs, under the MEFT, is responsible for the administration of the EIA process.</p>	<p>This scoping report documents the findings of the scoping phase and includes an environmental and social impact assessment sufficient for the project's activities.</p> <p>The process has been undertaken in line with the requirements of the Environmental Management Act and its regulations.</p> <p>Prospecting activities on EPL 8728 will not commence until an Environmental Clearance Certificate has been issued in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Management Act 2007.</p>
Hazardous Substances Ordinance, No. 14 of 1974	This Ordinance provides for the control of toxic substances and can be applied in conjunction with the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance, No. 11 of 1976. This applies to the manufacture, sale, use, disposal, and dumping of hazardous substances, as well as their import and export.	The Proponent must handle and store hazardous substances such as fuels, reagents, and industrial chemicals in a safe and responsible way, thereby avoiding any harm to the environment.
Labour Act, No. 11 of 2007	The Labour Act, No. 11 of 2007 (Regulations relating to the Occupational Health & Safety provisions of Employees at Work, promulgated in terms of Section 101 of the Labour Act, No. 6 of 1992 - GN156, GG 1617 of 1 August 1997)	The Proponent must adhere to all labour provisions and guidelines, as enshrined in the Labour Act. The Project shall also develop and implement a comprehensive occupational health and safety plan to ensure adequate protection for its personnel throughout the Project lifecycle.

National Regulatory Regime	Summary	Applicability to the Project
Petroleum Products and Energy Amendment Act, No.3 of 2000	Provides provision for the Minister to regulate the cleaning up of petroleum product spills, leaks and related incidents. The Proponent is required to carry all costs associated with such incidents.	The Proponent must take into consideration the requirements that are stipulated in both the Act and its Regulations. Measures in the EMP sets out methods to comply with the Regulations, specifically waste disposal during exploration.
Atomic Energy and Radiation Protection Act, Act 5 of 2005.	Annual reporting on the implementation of the Radiation Management Plan to ensure radiation safety and protection on site.	The Proponent must take into consideration the requirements that are stipulated in both the Act and its Regulations. Measures in the EMP sets out methods to comply with the Regulations, specifically waste disposal during exploration.
Radiation Protection & Waste Disposal Regulations (No 221 of 2011)	This Regulation makes provision for proponents to prepare and implement a Radiation Management Plan, commensurate with the activities of operations.	The Proponent must take into consideration the requirements that are stipulated in both the Act and its Regulations, the Radiation Protection and Waste Disposal Regulations. Measures in the EMP sets out methods to comply with the Regulations, specifically waste disposal during exploration.

3.2 NATIONAL POLICIES AND PLANS

Table 4 - National policies and plans applicable to the proposed Project

Policy or plan	Description	Relevance to the Project
Vision 2030	<p>Vision 2030 sets out the nation's development targets and strategies to achieve its national objectives.</p> <p>Vision 2030 states that the overall goal is to improve the quality of life of the Namibian people aligned with the developed world.</p>	The Proponent is encouraged to meet the objectives of Vision 2030 and shall contribute to the overall development of the country through continued employment opportunities and ongoing contributions to the gross domestic product (GDP).

Policy or plan	Description	Relevance to the Project
Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5)	<p>The NDP5 is the fifth in a series of seven five-year national development plans that outline the objectives and aspirations of Namibia’s long-term vision.</p> <p>The NDP5 pillars are economic progression, social transformation, environmental sustainability, and good governance.</p>	The Proponent is encouraged to support Government’s objectives of the NDP5 through creating opportunities for continued employment.
The Harambee Prosperity Plan II (2021 – 2025)	Second Pillar: Economic advancement – ensuring increasing productivity of priority key sectors (including mining) and the development of additional engines of growth, such as new employment opportunities.	The Proponent will contribute to the continued advancement of the mining industry and create an additional employment generation engine within the regional and national landscape.
Namibia’s Green Plan, 1992	Namibian has developed a 12-point plan for integrated sustainable environmental management to ensure a safe and healthy environment and to maintain a viable economy. Clause 2 (f) makes specific mention to guidelines related to Mining and Sustainable Development.	The Proponent is encouraged to adhere to best practise during operational activities.
Minerals Policy	<p>The Minerals Policy was adopted in 2002 and sets guiding principles and direction for the development of the Namibian mining sector, while communicating the values of the Namibian people.</p> <p>The policy strives to create an enabling environment for local and foreign investments in the mining sector and seeks to maximise the benefits for the Namibian people from the mining sector, while encouraging local participation.</p> <p>The objectives of the Minerals Policy are in line with the objectives of the Fifth National Development Plan that</p>	<p>The Proponent must conform to the Policy and where applicable support local spending and procurement.</p> <p>The Proponent must comply with the general guidelines of the Policy through the adoption of various legal mechanisms to manage all aspects of the environment effectively and sustainably from the start. The ESIA is one such mechanism to ensure environmental integrity throughout the planned Project’s lifecycle.</p>

Policy or plan	Description	Relevance to the Project
	include reduction of poverty, employment creation, and economic empowerment in Namibia.	
National Policy of the Prospecting and Mining in Protected Areas, 2018	<p>National Policy on the Prospecting and Mining in Protected Areas (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Mines and Energy, 2018) was passed in July 2018 and provides direction in terms of where mining and exploration related impacts are legally prohibited and where biodiversity priority areas may present high risks for mining projects.</p> <p>The policy provides a framework for integrating relevant biodiversity information into decision making about exploration and mining options and how best to avoid, minimise or remedy biodiversity impacts caused by mining, and in so doing support sustainable development</p>	EPL 8728 falls within the Namib-Naukluft National Park. It is therefore imperative that the potential impacts within the national parks be thoroughly assessed and are reviewed and compared with the 'no mining and prospecting zones' in the forementioned policy. Park rules will apply to all exploration activities.

Table 5 – Specific permits and licence requirements for the proposed Project

Permit or licence	Act or Regulation	Related activities requiring a permit	Relevant Authority
Environmental clearance certificate	Environmental Management Act, No 7 of 2007	Required for all listed activities shown in Table 2. Requires issuance of Environmental Clearance Certificate by the Environmental Commissioner.	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)
Exclusive Prospecting Licence	Section 90 (2) (A) of the Minerals Act, No.33 of 1992	Written permission from the Mining Commissioner in the form of an Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL 8728) has been issued to date.	Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)
National Park Entry Permit	Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975	The permission to enter and reside in a game park or a nature reserve mentioned in section 18(1)(a) may be granted only for the purposes of – (a) (b) (c) health, study, recreation or other incidental matters; travel or transport along the routes prescribed by regulation; or transacting any lawful business.	MEFT
Vegetation Clearing	Forestry Act No. 12 of 2001	A permit is required for the removal or clearing of any vegetation.	MEFT
Water abstraction permit	Water Act, 1996	This Act provides for “the control, conservation and use of water for domestic agricultural, urban and industrial purposes; to make provision for the control, in certain respects and for the control of certain activities on or in water in certain areas”. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform Department of Water Affairs is responsible for the administration of the Water Act. The Minister may issue a Permit in terms of the regulations 5 and 9 of the government notice R1278 of 23 July 1971 as promulgated under section 30 (2) of the Water Act no. 54 of 1956, as amended. To abstract water	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)

Permit or licence	Act or Regulation	Related activities requiring a permit	Relevant Authority
		from a controlled water source, a WA 002 should be filled and submitted to the MAWF	
Notice of Intention to drill	Water Resources Management Act, 2004	Despite any other law to the contrary, a person who proposes to drill a new borehole, or to improve any existing borehole, for the purpose of searching for or extracting minerals or other substances, or for road construction or any other purposes other than exploring for groundwater must inform the Minister of such proposal; furnish the Minister with such data and information as the Minister may require in connection with such borehole drilling or improvement; and take such measures as may be required by the Minister for conserving and protecting groundwater. Any excess water collected as a result of any operation contemplated in subsection (1) must be disposed of as prescribed	(MME

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4.1 NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The mining sector in Namibia contributes to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), government tax receipts and export revenues. For this reason, exploration activities are encouraged in Namibia. The vision of the Minerals Policy is to "attract investment and enable the private sector to take the lead in exploration, mining, mineral beneficiation and marketing" supports mineral exploration and development.

The proposed Project is in line with this vision and has the potential to create employment in local communities in the Erongo Region. If exploration activities are successful, and a resource can be defined as having commercially viable mineral concentrations, then socio-economic development can be realised in the region.

4.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its regulations, alternatives considered should be analysed and presented in the EIA reports. This requirement ensures that during the design evolution and decision-making process, potential environmental impacts, costs, and technical feasibility have been considered, which leads to the best option(s) being identified.

Exploration activities range from extremely low impact exploration such as remote sensing from satellites to more intensive methods such as closely spaced drilling. The methods that will be used are based on the exploration programme which is adjusted as more information and data is obtained. At this stage of the Project, the exploration programme is yet to be finalised and therefore a range of options exist. All the options and methods have been identified to ensure all the potential impacts on the environment and society are assessed.

4.2.1 NO-GO ALTERNATIVES

Should exploration activities within EPL 8728 not take place, the anticipated environmental impacts from exploration activities would not occur. However, the social and economic benefits associated with the Project would also not materialise. Additionally, there would not be an opportunity to define resources within the Project area, which would be a missed opportunity for geological mapping and data collection that typically adds to regional knowledge of Namibia's mineral wealth and, if found to be viable for mining, would benefit the Namibian economy.

4.3 EXPLORATION METHODOLOGY

All geological and geophysical work will be conducted by Elevate geologists and contractors if needed. The schedule of activities is presented in Table 6.

Table 6 - Preliminary Exploration Schedule

Phase	Date	Activity Description
1	1 month	Acquire Government Mag/Rad and Geology
1	2 months	Interpret data, literature search and review
2	1 month	Ground truth Anomalies
2	2 months	Soil and rock sampling
2	2 months	Geochemical sampling
2	2 months	Ground Rad survey
2	2 months	EM survey
3	2-3 months	If warranted shallow RC drilling

Exploration activities on EPL 8728 will include soil and rock sampling, geological mapping, electromagnetic and geophysical surveys, drilling and core sampling. Some vegetation may be cleared to create access tracks and working areas for the installation and development of exploration drill holes. Detail of these activities are described below.

REMOTE SENSING AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

During mineral exploration, remote sensing and geophysical surveys enable explorers to identify the potential for mineralisation without having to undertake massive exploration operations. Remote sensing may be used to map the geology and existing faults and fractures that localise the ore deposits or may be used to recognise rocks which have been hydrothermally altered. Remote sensing includes a few tools and techniques including geographical information systems, radar, geographical information systems and sonar.

ELECTROMAGNETIC SURVEYS

Electromagnetic surveys are a non-destructive geophysical survey that can detect subsurface features without drilling, probing, or digging. This method is likely to be the preferred method for exploration activities within the EPL. This will most likely be undertaken on foot.

REVERSE CIRCULATION (RC) DRILLING AND DIAMOND DRILLING

Drilling is to be undertaken in order to obtain drill samples. The collected samples will be temporarily stored in plastic bags on site and transported to a sample preparation laboratory at Tschudi or in Swakopmund.

All exploration activities will be undertaken in programmed segments. The number of drill holes will be determined from results obtained ground penetrating radar data. Equipment used during drilling shall include a trailer-mounted rig towed by a truck.

Pitting and trenching is not planned for this exploration project, so it has not been included in the impact assessment of this scoping report.

Existing tracks shall be used as far as reasonably practicable. If new tracks are required, they will be developed by hand or by use of a 4x4 vehicle. The chosen method will depend on the terrain. Vegetation clearing will be limited to clearing for access tracks and site camps, should additional areas be cleared for exploration activities the Forest Act, No. 12 of 2001 and its regulations will be complied with (the relevant forestry permits will be applied for if required). Any established or large trees or specially protected plant species shall not be removed, and access tracks will be routed to avoid these. Where some clearing is required, permits must be obtained.

4.3.1 EXPLORATION SCHEDULE

The exploration activities are executed and managed from the Proponents Exploration Office in Swakopmund. Field exploration activities, using techniques as discussed above, are likely to occur throughout the licence validity period. Remote sensing studies and planning phases for the prospecting programme will require 3 months. Geochemical sampling will be undertaken concurrently with geological mapping for approximately 2 months. Geophysical surveys will then be carried out over a period of about 2 months after which the Project will advance to reverse circulation or core drilling.

The duration of drilling programs is variable, and usually depends on the information that is gained from drilling. Renewal applications for the environmental clearance certificate and other permits will be made should a renewal of the EPL be required.

4.3.2 EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

During the exploration phase, double and single cab vehicles will be used to transport materials and equipment to the site. A drill rig will be brought to site for drilling, a water tank and supporting equipment such as rods, and fuel, and compressor for use during drilling are also on the drill rig.

4.3.3 POWER SUPPLY

The individual contractors will be responsible to supply their own energy needs throughout the duration of their stay within the field camps. The Proponent prefers the use of small-scale generators.

4.3.4 WATER SUPPLY

Water will be required for various uses including human consumption during the planned exploration activities and to support any of the exploration activities such as diamond drilling. Water required for exploration activities will be trucked to site by the drilling support vehicles.

4.3.5 WORK FORCE AND ACCOMMODATION

10-20 personnel will be required during exploration activities. Staff will be accommodated in designated field camps located within the EPL and within the park during the exploration programme. The field camp infrastructure includes tents and toilets as per Park requirements.

4.3.6 WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste produced on-site will include solid waste such as packaging material and field camps household waste. Hazardous waste if any, such as (hydrocarbon contaminated soil, etc.) will be disposed of at the Walvis Bay municipal waste handling site. The Proponent must ensure waste is collected in categorised bins and that the waste hierarchy of (reduce, reuse, and recycle) is practiced as practically as possible. The banning of plastics bags in national parks or nature reserve as per the Government notice No.85, published in the Government Gazette No. 6285 in April 2017 should be adhered to unless:

- Designated to be used for the disposal of waste;
- Designated for agricultural purposes;
- Used for sampling or analysis;
- That constitutes or form an integral part of, the packaging in which goods are sealed prior to sale in the local market or for export; or
- That it is a transparent resealable bag

All waste will need to be removed from the National Park and disposed of as indicated.

4.3.7 REHABILITATION

Once exploration activities are completed the areas must be rehabilitated to a condition as close to the original state as far as possible. Rehabilitation methods must be determined prior to the commencement of the exploration programme and shall be agreed with the Namib-Naukluft National Park authorities as per legislation (discussed in Section 3). Before and after photographs will be used to monitor rehabilitation success. The Proponent is committed to restoring all disturbed areas from their activities.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE

A detailed environmental and socio-economic baseline is provided in this section. A description of the existing biophysical environment is given. This section has been compiled from a desktop study, followed by site verification.

5.1 LAND USE

EPL 8728 is situated to the East of Walvis Bay in the Erongo region. This region has mixed agriculture (livestock and game farms), tourism activities, conservation areas (i.e., National Parks and Conservancies) and mining activities. The EPL falls within the Namib-Naukluft National Park, bordering farm Rembrandt Pan No. 125/1 shown in Figure 3.

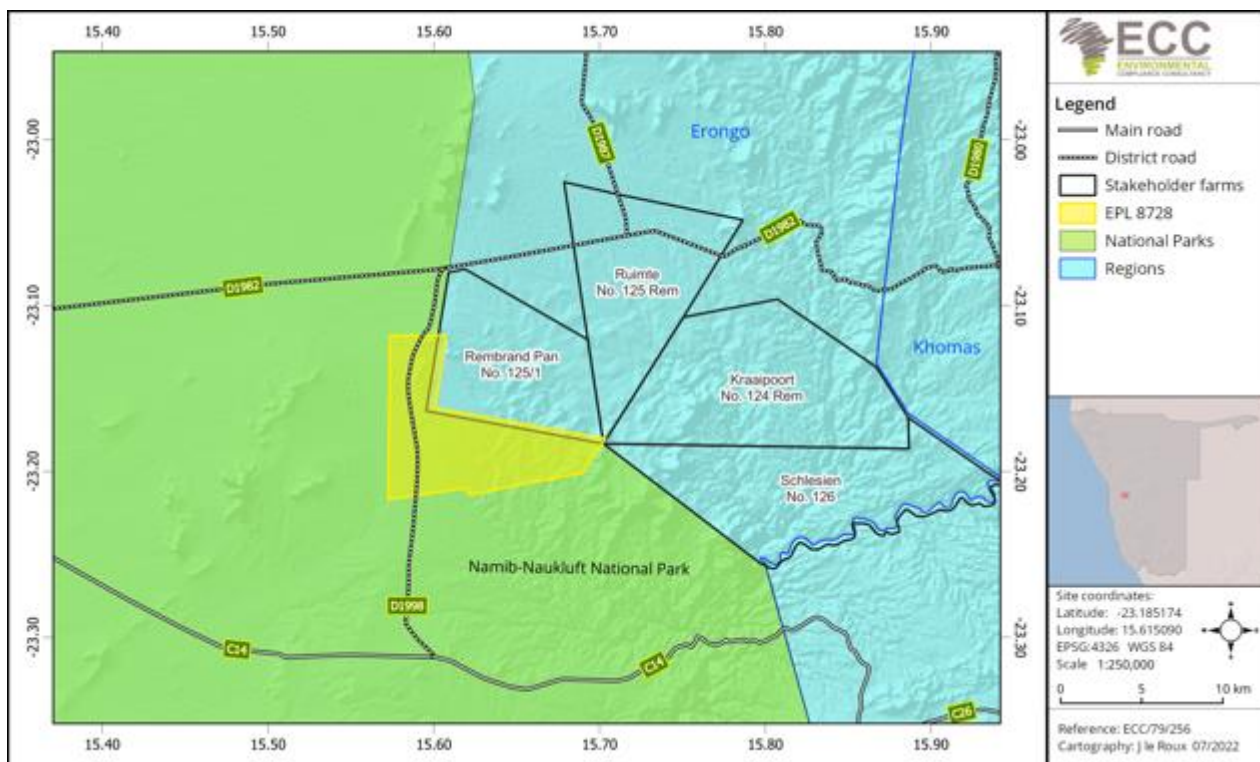


Figure 3 - Stakeholder map

5.2 CLIMATE

EPL 8728 is situated to the east of Walvis Bay in the Erongo Region on the edge of the Namib-Naukluft National Park. The climatic conditions characterising the EPL area are warm summers and cool winters with the mean temperatures between 20°C and 22°C, mean maximum temperatures ranging between 25°C and 33°C and mean minimum temperatures ranging between 7°C to 19°C. The hottest months of the year are between October and April and the coolest months are in June, July and August (Bubenzer, 2002 & Meteoblue, 2022).

The months with the highest humidity, have a humidity of approximately 60% relative humidity (RH), and the driest months have a humidity of approximately 10-20% RH. The average rainfall in this area during the year is between 100 to 150 mm and rainfall events are limited to the summer months, mainly between January and March. Potential evaporation is between 3200 and 3400 mm per year (Bubenzer, 2002) shown in Figure 4.

The site has wind speeds between 0 and 38 km/h, where the months of October to February are known to be the windiest months. Wind can occur any time of the day and the most predominant wind directions for this area are ENE and SW (Figure 5) (Meteoblue, 2022).

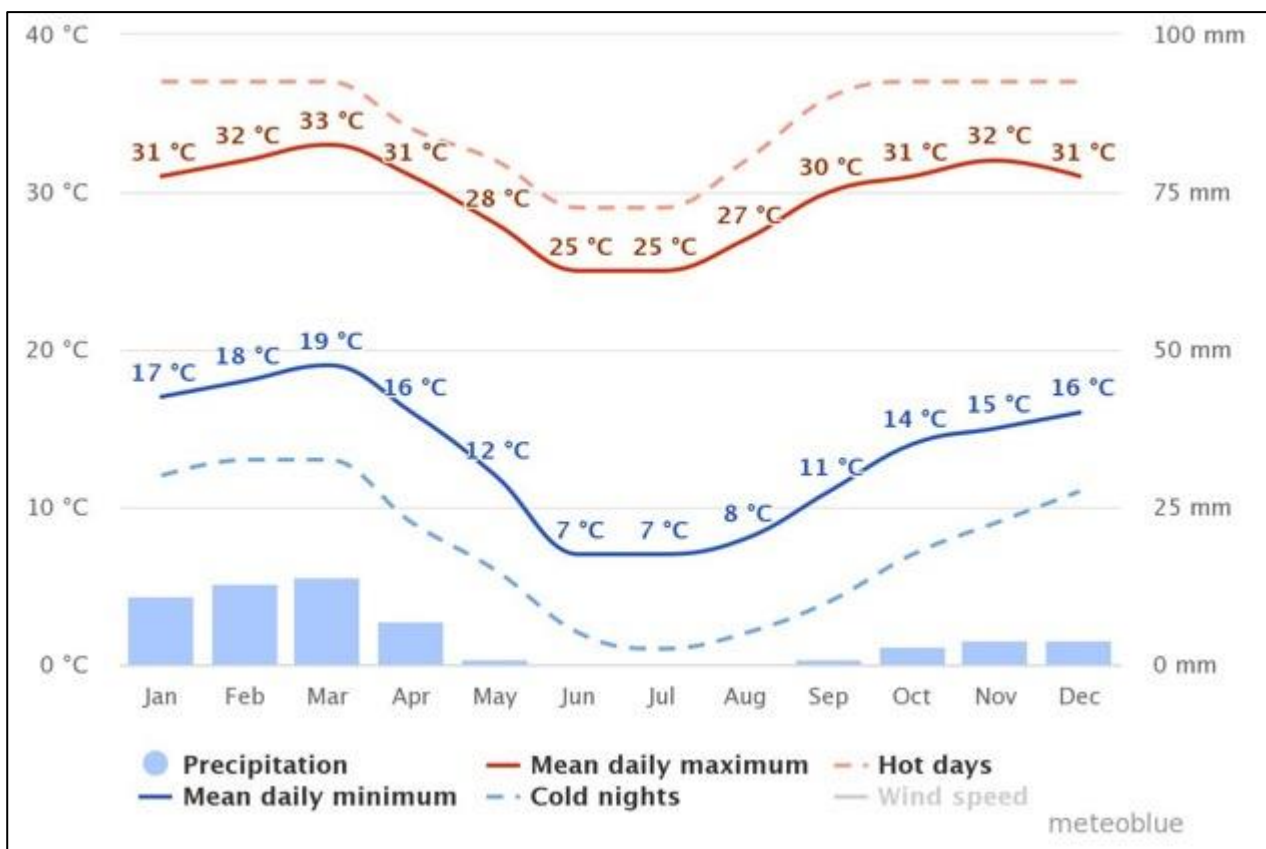


Figure 4 - Climate of the area

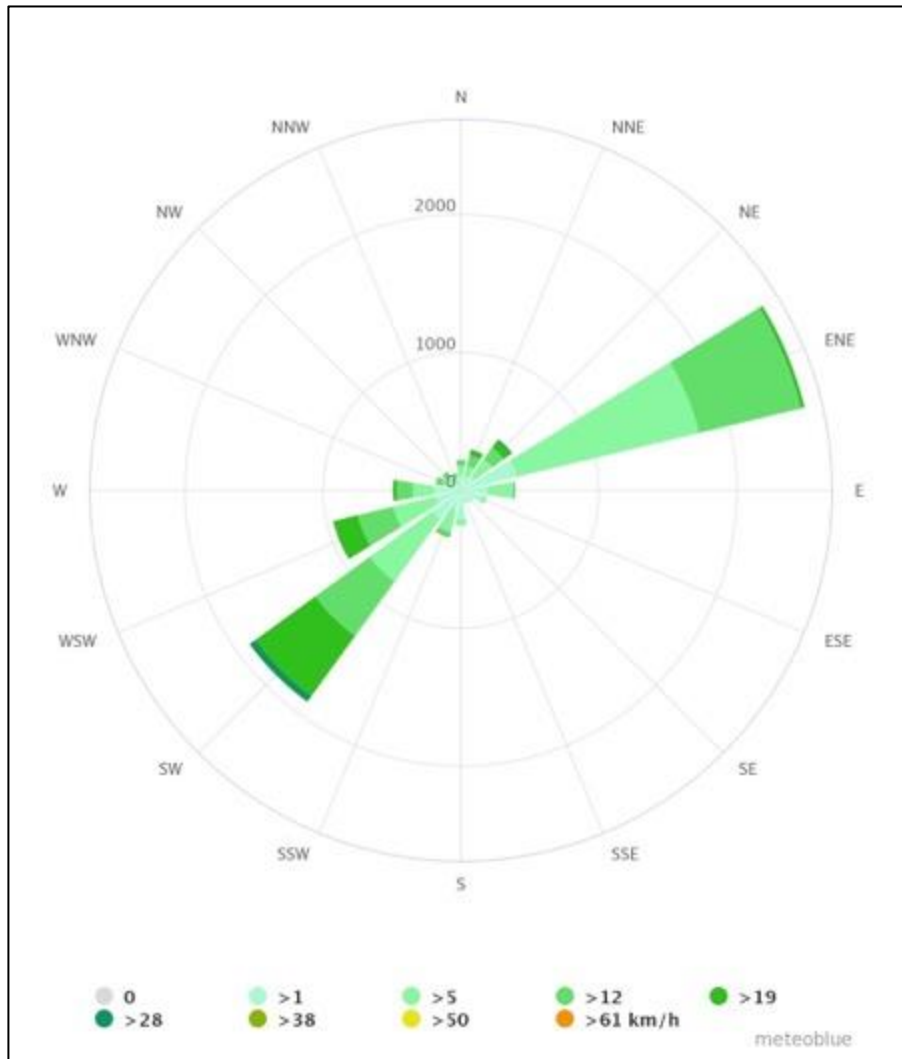


Figure 5 - Average wind speed and direction in this area

5.3 SOIL, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The geology over which the EPL falls mainly consists of the Khomas group (Damara supergroup and Gariiep complex). The main rock type is metamorphic sedimentary rocks such as schists (Bubenzer, 2002) shown in (Bubenzer, 2002) shown in Figure 6.

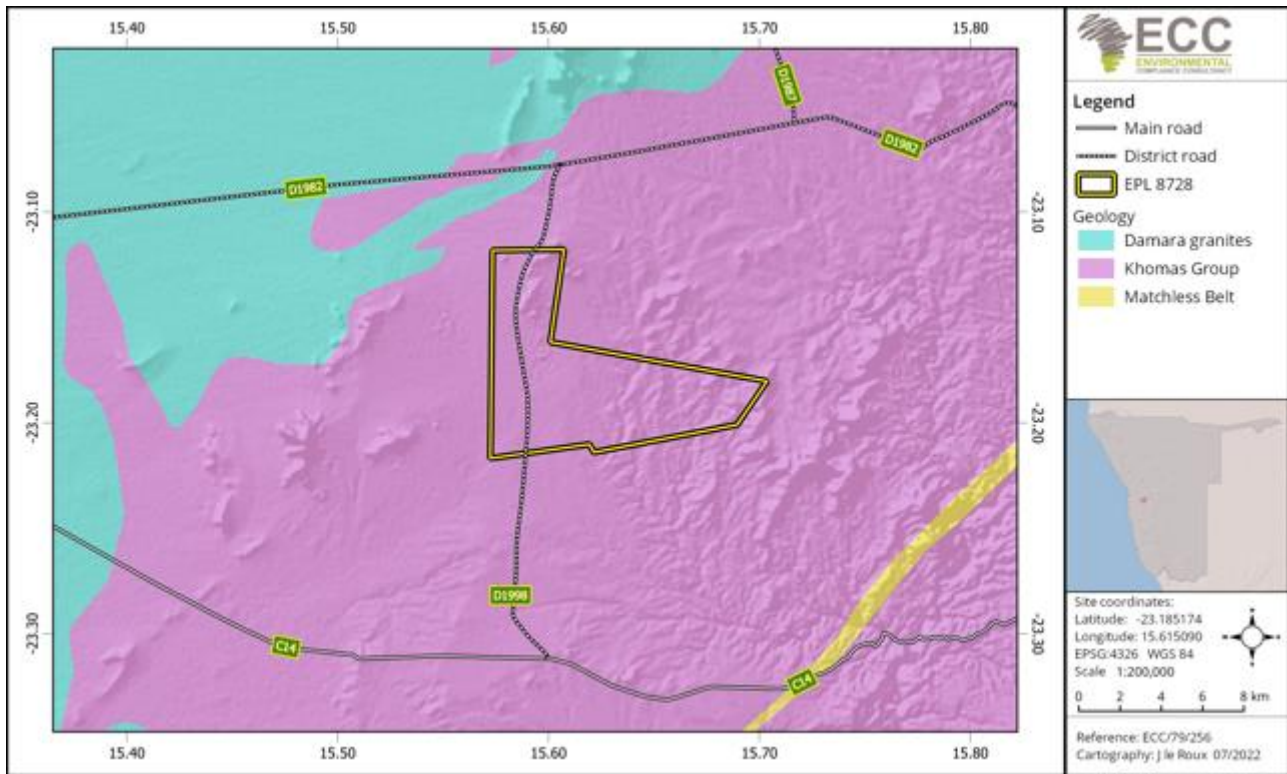


Figure 6 - Geology of the area

The topography of the EPL area is relatively flat with rocky outcrops to the east as well as a small section of rocky outcrops to the northeast of the EPL (Figure 7). The highest point being about 1187 m above sea level and the lowest point is just below 917m above sea level.

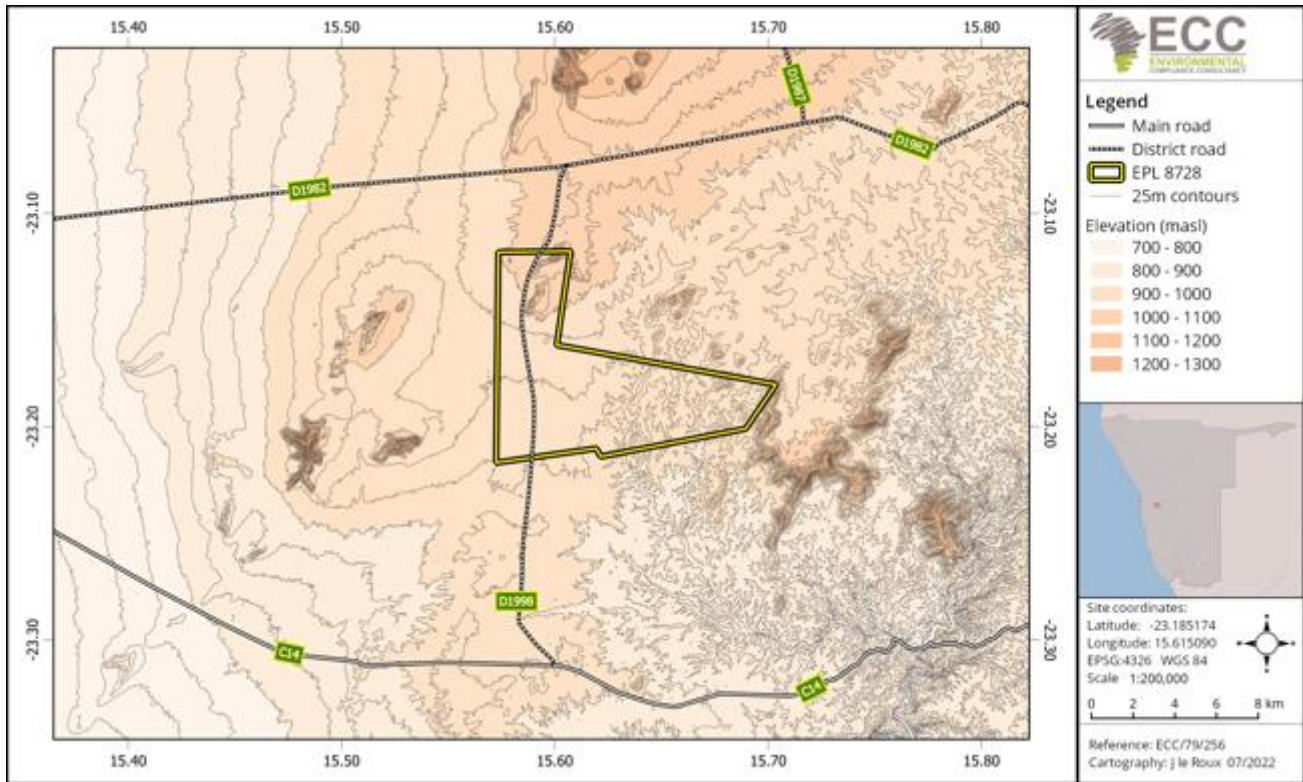


Figure 7 - Elevation of the area

Namibian soils vary a great deal on a broad scale with a great deal of variability at a local level. The EPL is mainly covered with lethic Leptosols which means they are very thin or shallow soils and petric Calcisols which means soils with a solid layer at a shallow depth that remains hard even when wet as shown in Figure 8.

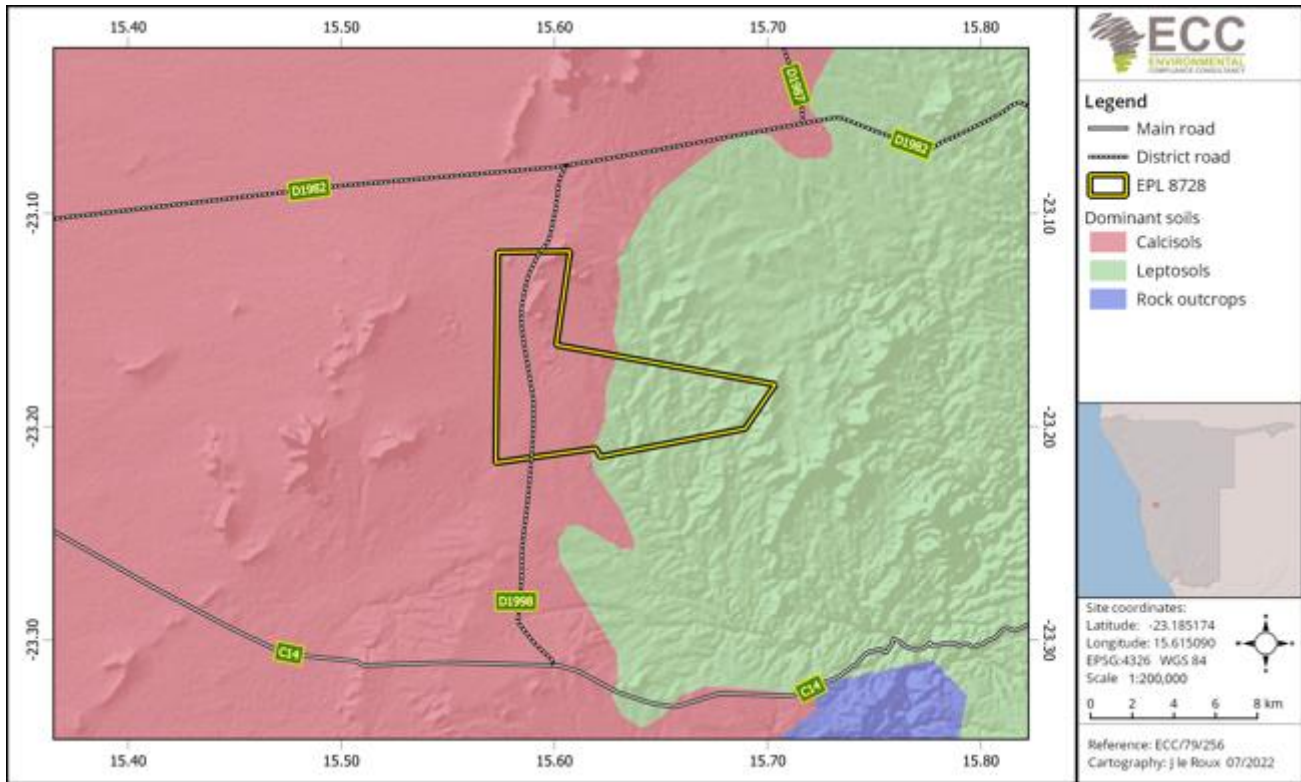


Figure 8 - Soil characteristics of the area

5.4 HYDROGEOLOGY

According to the Namibian Monitoring Information System & Hydrological Map of Namibia (<https://na-mis.com/>), the site falls mainly over rock bodies with low to very low groundwater potential. The groundwater vulnerability in this area is low to very low vulnerability and groundwater recharge within this area is considered to be very low (0.5% of the total average rainfall). Groundwater in this area is generally of poor quality and not suitable for human consumption. This EPL falls within the Kuiseb groundwater basin and has two non-perennial rivers running through the EPL being the Aussinanis River and Paradys River and the EPL falls within the Kuiseb catchment area as shown in Figure 9.

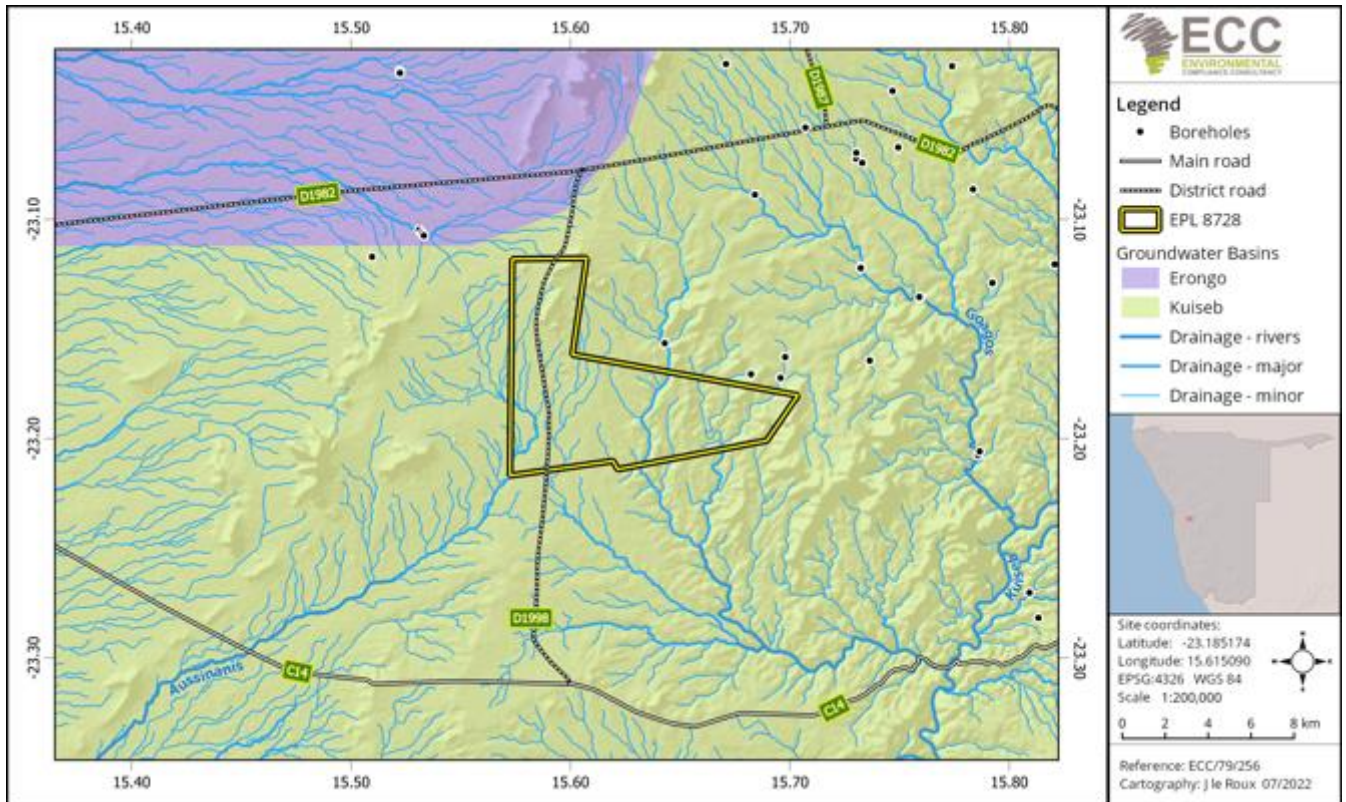


Figure 9 - Hydrology of the area

5.5 BIODIVERSITY BASELINE

5.5.1 FLORA

Vegetation in Namibia is strongly influenced by rainfall. The plant diversity and tallest trees are most lush in the north-eastern parts of the country and contrast sparser and shorter to the west and south of the country. This gradient is not simple as factors such as soil types, landscape and human impacts may also influence the vegetation.

During a desktop study of the plant diversity (see Table 7) and plant species (Table 8) using the Atlas of Namibia, the species that are found in the general area of the EPL occur in numerous other places in Namibia too. Plant species on the red data list are also found in other areas as well. Thus, a low-level plant endemism exists for this area.

The plant diversity is between 150 and 300 species for this area, with a medium diversity ranking of 4 out of 7. 6 to 15 plant species found in this area are endemic. The dominant vegetation structure within the EPL is central-western escarpment and inselbergs partially central desert in the northern section of the EPL. The vegetation type is mainly sparse shrubland and Namib grassland to a lesser extent. A large section of the EPL as shown in Figure 10 falls within the Nama-karoo biome and a smaller section of the northern section falls within the central desert biome

dominated by lichens and *Psilicoulon salicornioides* though this easternmost part of the central desert biome is not dominated by lichens (Mendelsohn et al. 2002).

Table 7 - General Flora Data (Atlas of Namibia - Mendelsohn et al. 2002)

Biome	Nama-Karoo
Vegetation type	Central-western escarpment and inselbergs
Vegetation structure type	Sparse shrubland
Diversity of higher plants	Medium (Diversity rank = 4 [1-7 representing highest to low diversity])
Number of plant species	150-300
% Tree cover	2-10
Average tree height (m)	2-5
% Shrub cover	2-10
Shrub height (m)	0.5-1
% Dwarf shrub cover	2-10
Dwarf shrub height (m)	<0.5
% Grass cover	0.1-1
Grass height (m)	<0.5

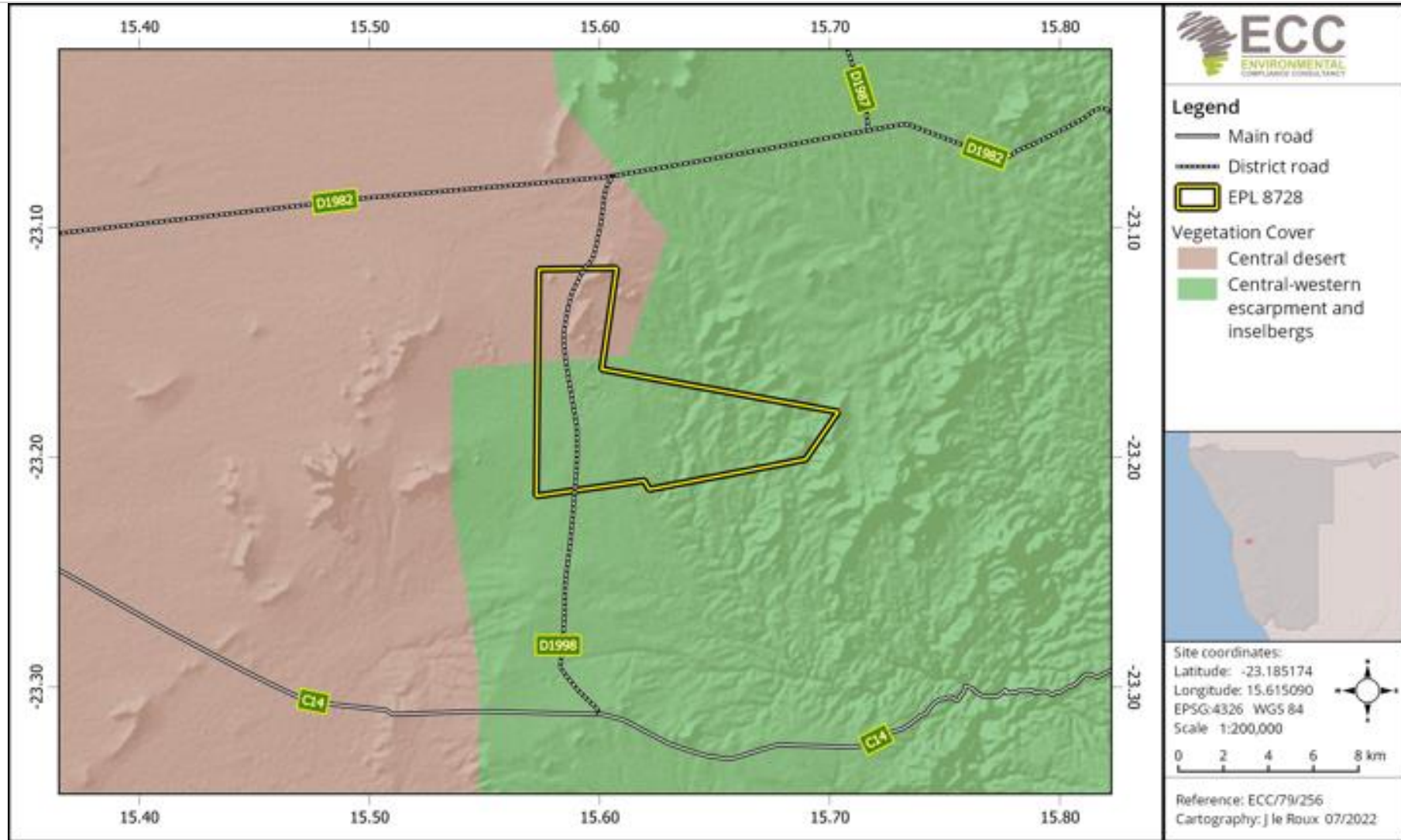


Figure 10 - Vegetation of the area

Table 8 - The Abundance of Tree / Shrub Species within Quadrants 2315BA & 2315BB

Tree / Shrub Species	Quarter degree quadrants: 2315BA & BB
<i>Acacia erioloba</i>	Occasional to Common to Abundant
<i>Acacia hebeclada subsp hebeclada</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Acacia karroo</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Acacia reficiens subsp reficiens</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Acanthosicyos horridus</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Adenolobus garipensis</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Aloe dichotoma</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Boscia albitrunca</i>	Occasional to Common to Abundant
<i>Boscia foetida subsp foetida</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Cadaba aphylla</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Calicorema capitata</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Catophractes alexandri</i>	Occasional to Uncommon to Rare
<i>Commiphora glandulosa</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Commiphora glaucescens</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Commiphora pyracanthoides</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Commiphora saxicola</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Commiphora tenuipetiolata</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Commiphora virgata</i>	Uncommon to Rare to Common to Abundant
<i>Croton gratissimus</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Ehretia alba</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Elephantorrhiza suffruticosa</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Euclea pseudebenus</i>	Uncommon to Rare to Common to Abundant
<i>Euclea undulata var myrtina</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Euphorbia damarana</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Euphorbia virosa</i>	Occasional
<i>Faidherbia albida</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Grewia flava</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Grewia tenax var tenax</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Gymnosporia senegalensis</i>	Occasional
<i>Maerua parvifolia</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Maerua schinzii</i>	Occasional to Uncommon to Rare
<i>Moringa ovalifolia</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Parkinsonia africana</i>	Occasional to Uncommon to Rare
<i>Pechuel-Loeschea leubnitziae</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Phaeoptilum spinosum</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Prosopis spp</i>	Uncommon to Rare

Tree / Shrub Species	Quarter degree quadrants: 2315BA & BB
<i>Rhus marlothii</i>	Uncommon to Rare
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Common to Abundant
<i>Salvadora persica var persica</i>	Occasional & Common to Abundant
<i>Sterculia africana var africana</i>	Uncommon to Rare to Common to Abundant
<i>Tamarix usneoides</i>	Uncommon to Rare to Common to Abundant
<i>Ziziphus mucronata</i>	Uncommon to Rare to Common to Abundant

5.5.2 FAUNA

The overall terrestrial diversity for the area is low compared to other parts of the country. The EPL has a low bird diversity status of about 28-31 species (residents and migrants), with a low to moderate bird endemism (between 4 to 5 species). The area displays moderate mammal diversity of between 9-10 species (6 of these species are endemic). (Bubenzer, 2002, IUCN, 2021, Mendelsohn et al., 2002, Oberprieler and Cillié, 2008 & Stuart and Stuart, 2015).

Furthermore, the reptile diversity within this area is moderate with between 9 and 24 species and, 4-6 endemism (low). The number of observed lizard species for this area is between 28 to 31 of which 5 species are endemic (low) and the different snakes recorded are between 9 to 14 species of which 4 to 5 maybe endemic. This area also has a very low frog diversity of 2 species, and also a low scorpion diversity of between 7 and 8 species). (Bubenzer, 2002 & Mendelsohn et al., 2002).

5.6 SOCIAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE

Erongo Region is clustered into seven constituencies (Arandis, Daures, Karibib, Omaruru, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay Rural and Walvis Bay Urban). The region's capital town is Swakopmund. Local authorities govern the towns in a form of municipalities. The Erongo Region occupies 10563.5 km² of Namibia's 824292 km² total surface area and lies 270 km northwest of the central Khomas Region. To the east and northeast, the region is boarded by Kunene and Otjozondjupa and Hardap region to the south (NSA, 2014).

5.6.1 EMPLOYMENT

In 2018, 53.4 % of all working Namibians were employed in the private sector and 21.5 % by the state. State-owned enterprises employ 7.6 % of Namibians and private individuals 16.6 %. Wages and salaries represented the main income source of 47.4 % of households in Namibia.

Overall, the rate of unemployment is estimated at 33.4 % for Namibia, using the broad definition of unemployment. More than 60 % of the population is over 15 years of age and about one-third of the total population can be regarded as part of the labour force. The unemployment rate in rural and urban areas is almost the same – 33.4 % in urban areas and 33.5 % in rural areas (NSA, 2019).

In 2018 the unemployment level was at 59.6 % for those aged 15-19, 57 % for those aged 20-24, and 42.3 % for 25-29-year-olds (NSA, 2018).

5.6.2 ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Mining plays a pivotal role in the economy of Namibia. Since independence, it has consistently been the biggest contributor to Namibia's economy in terms of revenue and accounts for 11% of the country's income (National Planning Commission, 2021). Mining is one of the main contributors to GDP, and one of the largest economic sectors of Namibia.

In 2022 Namibia recorded a growth of 4.6% which was mainly driven by mining (especially due to the growth of the diamond production) due to the fact that this industry saw a growth of 45.1% growth in 2022. Primary industries saw a growth of 12.9% mainly attributed to mining and quarrying falling under this industry (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2022).

Secondary industries saw a recovery from 2021 of 3.3% (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2022). However, agricultural industries have been negatively impacted due to drought and the war in Ukraine. With ever increasing fuel prices, inflation has increased to a high of 6.1%, an all-time high since 2017 thus affecting the most vulnerable (The World Bank, 2023).

5.6.3 CULTURAL HERITAGE

From the Namibian GIS data and information from the Atlas of Namibia and other sources, there are no sites of concern within the EPL boundaries. There are no sites of concern from any of the following categorised archaeological periods: 1.8 million to 10000 years ago; past 10000 and 2000 years; or within the last 2000 years (Bubenzer, 2002 & Mendelsohn et al., 2002). Regardless, there is still the potential to uncover previously undiscovered heritage remains. A chance finds plan must be incorporated into the EMP.

6 IMPACT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

METHODOLOGY

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The impact assessment method described in this chapter by ECC is designed to systematically identify and evaluate potential environmental and social impacts that may arise from a proposed project. The method takes into consideration the baseline characteristics of the project area and assesses the significance of impacts based on various factors, including the sensitivity and value of environmental and social receptors, the nature and characteristics of the potential impact, and the magnitude of potential change.

The method shown in Figure 11 provides assessment guidance that is used to evaluate impacts, and it also acknowledges any limitations, uncertainties, and assumptions associated with the assessment methodology. It outlines how impacts are identified and evaluated, and how the level of significance is derived. The method also addresses the application of mitigation measures in the assessment, and how additional mitigations are identified.

This chapter provides a structured approach for evaluating the potential impacts of a proposed project on the environment and social aspects. It considers various factors to determine the significance of impacts and provides guidance on how to identify and evaluate potential impacts. It also recognises the limitations and uncertainties associated with impact assessment methodologies, which adds transparency and credibility to the assessment process.

Overall, this chapter provides a comprehensive and systematic approach for conducting impact assessments, which can help ensure that potential environmental and social impacts are thoroughly evaluated and addressed in the decision-making process for the proposed project. However, it is important to note that the effectiveness of this method would ultimately depend on its implementation and the accuracy of the baseline data and assumptions used in the assessment. Therefore, regular reviews and updates of the methodology based on new information and feedback from stakeholders would be recommended to improve its accuracy and relevance.

ECC IMPACT PREDICTION AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGY



ECC – NATURE OF IMPACT

BENEFICIAL (POSITIVE) (+)
 An impact that is considered to represent an improvement on the baseline or introduces a positive change.

ADVERSE (NEGATIVE) (-)
 An impact that is considered to represent an adverse change from the baseline or introduces a new undesirable factor.

REVERSIBILITY

REVERSIBLE ↔
 Impacts are reversible and recoverable in the future

PARTLY REVERSIBLE ↔
 Some parts of the impact can be reversed while others remain

IRREVERSIBLE →
 Impacts which are not reversible and are permanent

DURATION

TEMPORARY
 Transient; a period of less than 1 year

SHORT TERM
 Impacts that are likely to last for the duration of the activity causing the impact and are recoverable (1-5 years)

MEDIUM TERM
 Impacts that are likely to continue after the activity causing the impact and are recoverable (5-15 years)

LONG TERM
 Impacts that are likely to last far beyond the end of the activity causing the damage (greater than 15 years with impact ceasing after decommissioning of the project)

PERMANENT

ECC – TYPE OF IMPACT

DIRECT
 Impacts causing an impact through direct interaction between a planned project activity and the receiving environment/receptors.

INDIRECT
 Impacts that result from other activities that are encouraged to happen as a result / consequence of the Project. Associated with the project and may occur at a later time or wider area

CUMULATIVE
 Impacts that arise as a result of an impact and effect from the project interacting with those from another activity to create an additional impact and effect

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

VERY HIGH / UNKNOWN
 Loss of resource, significantly affecting the long term quality and integrity of a resource; irreparable damage or loss of key characteristics, features or elements; or the magnitude is too great to quantify as it is unknown.

HIGH / MAJOR
 Loss of resource, and quality and integrity of resource; severe damage to key characteristics, features or elements; or Large scale or major improvement of resources quality; extensive restoration or enhancement; major improvement of attribute quality.

MODERATE
 Loss of resource, but not adversely affecting its integrity; partial loss of/damage to key characteristics, features or elements; or Benefit to, or addition of, key characteristics, features or elements; improvements of attribute quality.

LOW / MINOR
 Some measurable change in attributes, quality or vulnerability; minor loss of, or alteration to, one (or maybe more) key characteristic, feature or element; or Minor benefit to, or addition of, one (or maybe more) key characteristic, feature or element, some beneficial effect on attribute quality or a reduced risk of a negative effect occurring.

NONE / NEGLIGIBLE
 Very minor loss or detrimental alteration to one (or maybe more) characteristic, feature or element; or Very minor benefit to, or positive addition of, one (or maybe more) characteristic, feature or element.

SCALE OF CHANGE - EXTENT / GEOGRAPHIC SCALE

ON-SITE
 Impacts that are limited to the boundaries of the proposed project site

LOCAL
 Impacts that occur in the local area of influence, including around the proposed site and within the wider community

REGIONAL
 Impacts that affect a receptor that is regionally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.

NATIONAL
 Impacts that affect a receptor that is nationally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.

INTERNATIONAL
 Impacts that affect a receptor that is internationally important by virtue of scale, designation, quality or rarity.

PROBABILITY

IMPROBABLY (RARE)
 The event may occur in exceptional circumstances yet, rarely occurs in the industry. The event could occur once every 100 years

LOW PROBABILITY (UNLIKELY)
 The event has happened elsewhere yet, is unlikely to occur. The event could occur once every 10 years

MEDIUM PROBABILITY (POSSIBLE)
 The event could occur under some circumstances. The event could occur once every 5 years.

HIGH PROBABILITY (LIKELY)
 The event is expected to occur. The event could occur twice per year

DEFINITE (ALMOST CERTAIN)
 The event will occur. The event could occur once per month

		SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT				
		Significance of Impact	Low	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)
Biophysical	Social		Low	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)
SENSITIVITY	A biophysical receptor that is protected under legislation or international convention (CITES) listed as rare, threatened or endangered IUCN species. Highly valued/ sensitive resources/ receptors.	High (3)	Minor (3)	Moderate (6)	Major (9)	Major (12)
	Of value, importance/ rarity on a regional scale, and with limited potential for substitution; and/or not protected or listed (globally) but may be a rare or threatened species in the country; with little resilience to ecosystem changes, important to ecosystem functions, or one under threat or population decline.	Medium (2)	Low (2)	Minor (4)	Moderate (6)	Major (8)
	Not protected or listed as common/abundant; or not critical to other ecosystems functions.	Low (1)	Low (1)	Low (2)	Minor (3)	Moderate (4)

SENSITIVITY AND VALUE

Low

Of value, importance or rarity on a local scale; and/or not particularly sensitive to change or has considerable capacity to accommodate a change.

Medium

Of value, importance or rarity on a regional scale; and with limited potential for substitution; and/or moderate sensitivity to change, or moderate capacity to accommodate a change.

High

Of value, importance or rarity on an international and national scale, and with very limited potential for substitution; and/or very sensitive to change; or has little capacity to accommodate a change.

SIGNIFICANCE DESCRIPTION

- **Low - Major Beneficial (All Scores)**
Impacts are considered to be beneficial to the environment and society.
- **Low (negative) 0 - 25**
Impacts are considered to be local factors that are unlikely to be critical to decision-making.
- **Minor (negative) 25 - 50**
Impacts are considered to be important factors but are unlikely to be key decision-making factors. The impact will be experienced, but the impact magnitude is sufficiently small (with and without mitigation) and well within accepted standards, and/or the receptor is of low sensitivity/value. Impacts are considered to be short-term, reversible and/or localized in extent.
- **Moderate (negative) 50 - 75**
Impacts are considered within acceptable limits and standards. Impacts are long-term, but reversible and/or have regional significance. These are generally (but not exclusively) associated with sites and features of national importance and resources/features that are unique and which, if lost, cannot be replaced or relocated.
- **Major (negative) 75 - 100**
Impacts are considered to be key factors in the decision-making process that may have an impact of major significance, or large magnitude impacts occur to highly valued/sensitive resources/receptors. Impacts are expected to be permanent and non-reversible on a national scale and/or have international significance or result in a legislative non-compliance.

MITIGATION

Mitigation comprises a hierarchy of measures ranging from preventative environmental impacts by avoidance, to measures that provide opportunities for environmental enhancement. The mitigation hierarchy is avoidance; reduction at source; reduction of receptor level; repairing and correcting; compensation; remediation; and enhancement.

Mitigation measures can be split into three distinct categories, broadly defined as:

Standard practices and other best practice measures for avoiding and minimizing environmental impacts. These are considered as good practice measures.

Actions undertaken by the EIA process that influence the design process, through implementing design measures that would entirely avoid or eliminate an impact or modifying the design through the inclusion of environmental features to reduce the magnitude of change. These are considered as embedded mitigation.

Specified additional measures or follow-up action to be implemented to further reduce adverse impacts that remain after the incorporation of embedded mitigation. These are considered as additional mitigation.

The EIA is an iterative process whereby the outcomes of the environmental and social assessments inform the project.

The EMP provides the good practice mitigation measures and specified additional measures or follow-up action ECC has recommended for the project.

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Figure 11 - ECC ESIA methodology based on IFC standards.

6.2 ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

The principal documents used to inform the assessment method are:

- International Finance Corporation standards and models, in particular Performance Standard 1, 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (International Finance Corporation, 2017) (International Finance Corporation, 2012);
- International Finance Corporation CIA and Management Good Practice Handbook (International Finance Corporation, 2013); and,
- Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and EMP (Republic of Namibia, 2008).

6.3 LIMITATIONS, UNCERTAINTIES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The limitations and uncertainties associated with the assessment methodology in Namibia were observed to include the absence of topic-specific assessment guidance, with a generic methodology being applied based on IFC (International Finance Corporation) guidance and professional judgement. This implies that there may be limitations in terms of tailoring the assessment to specific topics or issues relevant to Namibia, and that the methodology may not fully capture the unique characteristics and nuances of the local context.

The impact assessment process also acknowledged the presence of uncertainties, and assumptions were made based on realistic worst-case scenarios to ensure that potential environmental impacts were identified and assessed comprehensively. These assumptions and uncertainties were identified and documented during the assessment process shown in Table 9 in line with best practice.

A cautious approach was applied where uncertainties existed, allowing for the identification and assessment of potential impacts based on worst-case scenarios. The limitations and uncertainties were acknowledged and described in the baseline section of the assessment, indicating transparency and awareness of potential limitations in the methodology.

It is important to note that the limitations and uncertainties identified in the assessment methodology may introduce potential biases or inaccuracies in the assessment results. Therefore, it is recommended to regularly review and update the methodology to address these limitations and uncertainties, and to ensure that it remains robust and relevant for the specific context of Namibia. Additionally, incorporating stakeholder feedback and local knowledge can also contribute to improving the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the assessment process.

Table 9 - Limitations, uncertainties and assumptions

LIMITATION / UNCERTAINTY	ASSUMPTION
Number of access roads and temporary drill campsites	The making of new tracks or access roads will be avoided, and existing tracks and routes will be used as far as possible. While every effort will be made to minimise environmental damage, in some cases it will be necessary to clear some vegetation. Temporary campsites near the drill sites may be required.
The program of exploration works is not confirmed	It is assumed that exploration work shall be undertaken in campaigns over the course of the licence period. Activities involve drilling; aerial or remote sensing; geophysical surveys; and mineral sampling. Pitting and trenching are not considered for this project and is unlikely and generally not favoured.
Number of workers, area they will come from and accommodation	It is planned that approximately ten people will be contracted for the proposed project. Contractors will camp near the exploration sites.
Structures	No permanent infrastructure will be developed during any phase of project activities during the 3-year mineral licence period.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter presents the findings of the impact assessment for the proposed project, with a focus on significant potential impacts. The design of the proposed project and best practice measures were considered during the assessment to identify likely significant impacts and recommend mitigation measures. A summary list of potential impacts was provided, including water (surface and groundwater), soil, landscape (visual impacts, sense of place), socioeconomics (employment, demographics, and land-use), noise, ecology (fauna and flora), air quality (emissions, pollutants, and dust), and heritage (including culture, history, archaeology, and palaeontology).

Table 10 outlines the findings of the impact assessment, identifying the activities that could be the source of impacts, the receptors that could be affected, and the pathways between them. Where activities or receptors have not been identified and analysed, potential impacts are deemed unlikely, and no assessment or justification is provided. Justification for further assessment may or may not be required where the activity, receptor, and pathway have been identified and analysed.

The nature and localised scale of the exploration activities, as well as the environmental context of the EPL, are expected to limit the potential environmental and social effects, should they occur. However, uncertainties related to potential increase in movements and presence of people, which may lead to illegal and covert activities such as poaching, stock theft, and collection of organisms, were identified. Accidental veld fires may also increase with the presence of contractor personnel, potentially affecting terrestrial ecology and biodiversity in Namibia, as well as local landowners and their neighbours. Mitigation measures are recommended and provided in Table 10 to address these potential impacts.

Cumulative impacts resulting from physical disturbance, noise, dust, and loss of sense of place may be experienced by farm owners, neighbours, visitors, and tourists. Mitigation measures are recommended and provided in Table 10 to address these impacts. Precautions must also be taken to prevent damage to heritage sites, and a chance find procedure will be implemented if paleontological remains are discovered during exploration activities. With the necessary mitigation measures in place, the significance of the impact reduces from moderate to minor, as outlined in the report.

It is important to ensure that the recommended mitigation measures are effectively implemented and monitored during project implementation to minimise potential impacts and ensure compliance with environmental regulations and best practices. Regular monitoring and review of the impacts and effectiveness of mitigation measures should also be conducted throughout the project lifecycle to address any emerging issues and make necessary adjustments to the mitigation measures as needed.

All necessary precautions should be taken to prevent damage to heritage sites in case paleontological remains are discovered during exploration activities. The chance find procedure, as outlined in the report, should be implemented in such cases. With the recommended mitigation measures in place (as provided in Table 10), the significance of the impact is expected to reduce from moderate to minor.

It is important to ensure that the chance find procedure is followed diligently to prevent any harm to the discovered heritage sites. This may include halting or modifying the exploration activities in the vicinity of the site, conducting further assessments to determine the extent and significance of the paleontological remains, and implementing appropriate mitigation measures to protect and preserve the heritage site.

Regular monitoring and review of the chance find procedure and effectiveness of the mitigation measures should be conducted throughout the project implementation to address any emerging issues and ensure compliance with relevant regulations and best practices. Any updates or changes to the chance find procedure or mitigation measures should be documented and communicated to relevant stakeholders as needed.

Furthermore, it is important to involve relevant experts, such as paleontologists or archaeologists, in the implementation of the chance find procedure and in assessing the significance of the paleontological remains. Their expertise can help ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect and preserve the heritage sites and their findings.

Overall, the report should provide clear and comprehensive information on the chance find procedure, mitigation measures, and the expected reduction of impact significance from moderate to minor, based on the implementation of these measures. It should also highlight the importance of diligent adherence to the chance find procedure and regular monitoring and review of the mitigation measures to minimise potential impacts on heritage sites during the exploration activities.

Table 10 - Impact assessment findings and proposed mitigation measures

Description	Details	
Aspect	Water	
Description of activity	Site operations such as maintenance activities could lead to compromised containment of hazardous materials, e.g., accidental fuel / hydraulic fluid leaks and spills, or similar sources	
Description of impact	Hydrocarbon leaks and spills could enter the Kuiseb Groundwater Basin (aquifer) causing contamination	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Groundwater quality
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Partly Reversible Moderate Short term Regional Possible
	Value of sensitivity	Medium
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Minor (4)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good housekeeping and training through toolbox talks and induction - All stationary vehicles and machinery must have drip trays to collect leakages of lubricants and oil - Spill kits and absorption material must be available during fuel delivery, storage or use - Accidental spills and leaks (including absorption material) must be cleaned as soon as possible - Major spills (significant release of chemicals or materials that pose a major health and safety risk to persons or damage to the environment that requires outside assistance to clean up) to be reported, also to the authorities - Maintenance and service schedules on equipment is in place - Store bulk fuel (200L or more) in adequate containment areas (non-porous surface, bunded) and discard damaged containers - Refuelling must be done in areas with adequate preventative measures in place - Servicing of equipment must not be done in the field 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (2)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Water	
Description of activity	Potential spillages of drill fluid, lubrication, etc. or drilling that penetrates the water table	
Description of impact	Hydrocarbon leaks and spills could enter the aquifer causing contamination	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Groundwater quality
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Indirect Partly Reversible Minor Short term Local Possible
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure spill kits and preventative measures (e.g., drill pads) are in place at exploration sites - RC drilling does not use drill fluids and therefore this risk is significantly reduced. 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Water – surface and groundwater	
Description of activity	Discharge and infiltration of non-contained wastewater	
Description of impact	Wastewater can contaminate surface and groundwater	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Surface and ground water
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Partly Reversible Minor Short term Regional Unlikely
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All wastewater discharges must be contained, and if possible recycled in the drilling process - Unrecyclable wastewater must be removed from site and taken to site where discharge of wastewater is permitted. - Workers will be made aware of the importance of wastewater management - Good housekeeping - Ensure prompt clean-up of spills - Contaminated soils should be remediated off-site 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Water – Surface and groundwater	
Description of activity	Inadequate management of solid waste	
Description of impact	Waste items and litter can pollute drainage channels	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Surface and ground water
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Cumulative Reversible Minor Temporary On-site Unlikely
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Low
Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (1)	
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good housekeeping - Training and awareness through toolbox-talks and induction - Implement a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) on waste management, for all kinds of waste possible on-site (e.g., domestic, mineral, hydrocarbons, hazardous) - No hazardous waste should be stored on site within the National Park - Implement a culture of correct waste collection, waste segregation and waste disposal 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Soil – Impacts	
Description of activity	Inadequate management of hazardous and hydrocarbon waste	
Description of impact	Pollution of soil	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Soil
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Reversible Minor Short term On-site Possible
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good housekeeping - Training and awareness through toolbox-talks and induction - Implement a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) on waste management, for all kinds of waste possible on-site (e.g., domestic, mineral, hydrocarbons, hazardous) - Avoid hazardous waste on site - Implement a culture of correct waste collection, waste segregation and waste disposal - Contaminated soil should be remediated off-site, either by the Proponent at their own bioremediation site or taken to the Walvis Bay hazardous waste site 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	
Description of activity	Vegetation clearing for access routes, drill pads and temporary contractor's camp	
Description of impact	Loss / alteration of terrestrial habitats and loss of species	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Reversible Minor Short term On-site Possible
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use existing roads for access to avoid new tracks and cut lines - Minimise clearance areas through proper planning of the exploration activities - Where necessary, rescue and relocate plants of significance under the supervision and permission of the National Parks management - Promote revegetation of cleared areas where possible upon completion of exploration activities - Apply for vegetation clearing permits before removing any vegetation. 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	
Description of activity	Ambient noise and vibration caused by moving or stationary machinery and equipment (e.g., drill rigs, generators, vehicles, airplanes)	
Description of impact	Resident, slow-moving and nesting organisms may be disturbed by excessive noise or vibration	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Reversible Minor Short term On-site Likely
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrict excessive noise to areas of activities only - No activities between dusk and dawn - Drill equipment shall be suitably positioned to ensure that noisy equipment is away from receptors - Maintain and carry out routine equipment checks - All equipment to be shut down or throttled back between periods of use. 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	
Description of activity	Increased movement of vehicles, machinery, and equipment	
Description of impact	Resident and nesting organisms such as reptiles can be disturbed, injured or killed	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Partly reversible Moderate Short term On-site Possible
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrict movements to areas of activities only - Use existing tracks and routes only - Identify rare, endangered, threatened and protected species in advance - Route new tracks around protected species and sensitive areas - Restrict movements to daytime hours - No driving off designated access routes (into the bush) / off-road driving - No animals or birds may be collected, caught, consumed, or removed from site 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	
Description of activity	Increased disturbance of areas with natural vegetation	
Description of impact	Alien species and weeds can be introduced to the area	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Reversible Minor Short term On-site Possible
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All project equipment arriving on site from an area outside of the project or coming from an area of known weed infestations (not present on the project site) should have an internal weed and seed inspection completed prior to equipment being used - Monitor areas for weed and alien species where exploration was active - Eradicate weeds and alien species as soon as they appear - Make workers aware of alien species and weeds 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity	
Description of activity	Accidental and uncontrolled fire	
Description of impact	Loss of grazing and organisms dying from veld fire	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Terrestrial ecology and biodiversity
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Partly Reversible Low Short Term Local Unlikely
	Value of sensitivity	High
	Magnitude of change	Negligible
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Minor (3)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrict movements of people to areas of activities only - Train people and raise awareness about veld fires and firefighting - No open fires outside designated areas are allowed in the National Park - Ensure proper cooking facilities at the contractor's campsite - No cigarette butts should be discarded but contained and disposed of at an appropriate facility - Proper fire hazard identification signage to be placed in areas that store flammable material (i.e., hydrocarbons and gas bottles) - Control and reduce the potential risk of fire by segregating and storing materials safely - Avoid potential sources of ignition by prohibiting smoking in and around certain facilities - Firefighting equipment should always be at designated areas and should be maintained and checked regularly 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (2)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Soil	
Description of activity	Drilling and the use of drilling equipment	
Description of impact	Loss of soil quality due to mixing of earth matter, trampling and compaction	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Soil
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Reversible Moderate Short term On-site Possible
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure erosion control and prevention measures are in place when vegetation clearance is required - Where necessary, plan access routes, drill pads and camps outside of existing drainage lines - Where necessary, install diversions to curb possible erosion - Restore drainage lines when disturbed 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Community	
Description of activity	Airborne surveying over the EPL, possible low flying	
Description of impact	Perceived impact from surveying activities on wild animals, livestock and humans	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Community and livestock
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse indirect Reversible Minor Temporary Local Unlikely
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Minor
Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)	
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 weeks prior to conducting aerial surveying, affected parties should be informed. - The following information is to be included in the written communication sent affected parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Company name, ➤ Survey dates, time and duration, ➤ Purpose of the survey, ➤ Flight altitude, ➤ Survey location, Map of survey area and flight lines, and ➤ Contact details for enquiries. - Comply with all applicable laws and agreements - Maintain continuous engagement with residents to identify any concerns or issues, and appropriate mitigation and management measures agreed upon - Ensure appropriate supervision of all activities 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Heritage	
Description of activity	Drilling activities, movement of machinery and vehicles	
Description of impact	Potential damage to cultural heritage sites	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Heritage
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Partly Reversible High Permanent On-site Possible
	Value of sensitivity	High
	Magnitude of change	Minor
Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Moderate (6)	
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement a Chance Find Procedure - Raise awareness about possible heritage finds - Report all finds that could be of heritage importance - In case archaeological remains to be uncovered, cease activities and the site manager must assess and demarcate the area - Project manager to visit the site and determine whether work can proceed without damage to findings, mark exclusions boundary and inform ECC with GPS position - If needed, further investigation must be requested for a professional assessment and the necessary protocols of the Chance Find Procedure have to be followed, - Archaeologist will evaluate the significance of the remains and identify appropriate action, (record and remove; relocate or leave premises, depending on the nature and value of the remains), - Inform the police if the remains are human, - Obtain appropriate clearance or approval from the competent authority, if required, and recover and remove the remains to the National Museum or National Forensic Laboratory as directed. - Activities on the same site may resume once the green light is given by the relevant competent authority. 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Minor (4)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Community	
Description of activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drilling activities, resulting in dust emissions - Windblown dust from exposed/cleared land during exploration activities 	
Description of impact	Air quality, visual disturbance and loss of sense of place from dust plumes	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Community
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Direct Reversible Moderate Temporary Local Likely
	Value of sensitivity	High
	Magnitude of change	Minor
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Moderate (6)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply dust suppression where possible - Restrict speed of vehicles (<30km/h) - Specific activities that may generate dust and impact nearby farmers or tourists. - Dust generating activities should be avoided during strong wind events - All vehicles and machinery / equipment to be shut down or throttled back between periods of use - Barriers or fences shall be used if drilling occurs in locations that may affect farmers, farmer's livestock or tourists passing by along the dirt roads. - Maintain good housekeeping 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Minor (4)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Community	
Description of activity	Movement of vehicles, exploration activities	
Description of impact	Presence of exploration team could be blamed for stock theft and poaching	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Community
	Effect/description of magnitude	Adverse Cumulative Reversible Minor Temporary Local Unlikely
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Low
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (1)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop and implement an environmental management plan or procedures for working in the National Park or near farmlands – Implement monitoring programmes and keep register of vehicle movement. – Maintain continuous engagement with authorities to identify any concerns or issues, and employ appropriate mitigation and management measures where applicable – Ensure appropriate supervision of all activities is maintained – Raise awareness and sensitise employees about contentious issues such as stock theft and poaching – Accidents and incidents need to be reported to the project manager and recorded in the incident register 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low (1)	

Description	Details	
Aspect	Community	
Description of activity	Exploration activities	
Description of impact	Promotes job creation, skills development, and opportunities for the local economy	
Assessment of impact	Receptor	Community
	Effect/description of magnitude	Beneficial Direct Reversible Minor Short term Local Possible
	Value of sensitivity	Low
	Magnitude of change	Low
	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Low (2)
Impact management/control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As far as possible promote local procurement - Enhance the development of local skills where possible 	
Residual impact after mitigation	Low Beneficial	

8 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Preliminary EMP for the proposed project is presented in Appendix A. It provides management options to ensure the potential impacts of the proposed project are minimised. An EMP is a tool used to take pro-active action by addressing potential problems before they occur. This should limit the corrective measures needed, although additional mitigation measures might be included if necessary.

The management measures should be adhered to during all stages of the exploration activities. All personnel involved in the exploration activities should be taught the content of the EMP to ensure all activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

The objectives of the EMP are:

- To include all components of the development and operations of the project;
- To prescribe the best practicable control methods to lessen the environmental impacts associated with the project;
- To monitor and audit the performance of operational personnel as it relates to the EMP;
and
- To ensure that appropriate environmental training is provided to responsible operational personnel.

9 CONCLUSION

ECC's impact assessment methodology was used to conduct the environmental and social impact assessment for the proposed exploration activities on EPL 8728. Through the scoping process, it was determined that impacts related to airborne dust are expected to be limited to vehicular traffic and drilling activities, and these impacts will be localised and short-term. There will also be some release of exhaust fumes from machinery, which may impact the immediate vicinity, but this will be of short duration. Additionally, drilling and machinery noise could be a disturbance to neighbouring farmers, but this will also be of short duration and unlikely to impact them due to the distance of the neighbouring farms to the EPL. The analysis of potential impacts and development of mitigation and management methods led to the conclusion that the likely significance of effects on humans from the cumulative impacts of physical disturbance, noise, dust, and emissions will be temporary and result in a qualitative reduction in the sense of place. As such, these impacts are designated as having minor significance after mitigations are implemented.

Due to increased movements and presence of people, there is a potential threat of illegal and covert activities such as poaching and collection of organisms. Through this investigation, the significance of both impacts is indicated as moderate. However, numerous mitigation measures with proven national success exist for both impacts, which reduce their significance to minor.

Heritage sites may exist around the EPL, and all precautions will be taken to prevent damage to heritage sites due to the exploration activities. The chance find procedure will be implemented in such cases, and with the necessary mitigation measures in place, the significance of impacts reduces from moderate to minor.

All other social and environmental receptors that were scoped out as potentially significant impacts were deemed unlikely, and therefore, no further assessment was considered necessary. Various best practices and mitigation measures have been identified to avoid and reduce effects as far as reasonably practical. This will ensure that the environment is protected, and unforeseen effects and environmental disturbances are avoided.

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APPENDIX A – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPENDIX B – BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

APPENDIX C – NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

2
Republiken Sun Allgemeine Zeitung
Market Watch
MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022

OPEC supply cuts could tip world into recession

A decision by the OPEC oil producer group last week to rein in output has driven up prices and could push the global economy into recession, the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday.

"The relentless deterioration of the economy and higher prices sparked by an OPEC plan to cut supply are slowing world oil demand," the Paris-based agency, which includes the United States and other top consumer countries, said.

"With unrelenting inflationary pressures and interest rate hikes taking their toll, higher oil prices may prove the tipping point for a global economy already on the brink of recession," it added in its monthly oil report.

The dire warning from the agency highlights a rift with Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and de facto leader of OPEC.

Actual supply losses will likely be around 1 million barrels per day and not the 2 million barrels announced by the OPEC bloc, which unites the producer club and allies like Russia, the IEA said.

Capacity constraints plaguing output in other OPEC members mean Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will deliver most of the reductions, the IEA said, while new G7 and European Union sanctions on Russia could further tighten global supply.

PHOTO REUTERS

Taming inflation

Zim to keep world's highest interest rates

The southern African nation hiked interest rates to 200% in June to help rein in inflation and support a local currency that has lost more than 80% of its value against the US dollar this year.

RAY NDLOVU

Zimbabwe will keep the world's highest benchmark interest rate of 200% into next year as it prioritises economic stability ahead of high growth rates, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said.

"I think once we see that downturn in month-on-month inflation being sustainable, maybe over a three- to four-month period, then we can begin to think about lowering interest rates," Ncube said. "But for now, the tough monetary regime stance and the tough fiscal stance also stand. That's what it takes to bring stability and bring things under control."

The southern African nation hiked interest rates to 200% in June to help rein in inflation and support a local currency that has lost more than 80% of its value against the US dollar

On an annual basis, consumer prices surged 280% in September, according to the national statistics agency. Authorities are targeting a monthly inflation rate of 3%, although the desirable target is 1% and may be hard to achieve, Ncube told reporters Saturday at a virtual press briefing in Washington. Consumer prices rose 3.5% in September from a month earlier.

Ncube said authorities now had to "sacrifice" growth that he had earlier forecast at 4.6% for this year, compared with a 5.5% forecast in November.

The International Monetary Fund cut Zimbabwe's growth outlook to 3% from 3.5%. A Zimbabwean dollar trades at Z\$628 per US dollar, according to the central bank's website.

PHOTO REUTERS

BURSARIES APPLICATION 2023

NamPower is committed towards the socio-economic development of Namibia and therefore invites applications for UNDER-GRADUATE bursaries for young Namibians who wish to pursue studies in SADC.

UNDER-GRADUATE STUDIES:

- DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
- DEGREE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
- DEGREE IN RISK MANAGEMENT
- DEGREE IN QUANTITY SURVEY
- DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (CYBER SECURITY)
- DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
- DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

BURSARIES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY

- DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING
- DEGREE IN LAW

Please note: Applicants should indicate the nature of disability on the application form.

ELIGIBILITY FOR A NAMPOWER BURSARY IS DEPENDENT ON:

- Namibian Citizenship
- Grade 11 Certificate
- Grade 12 1st and 2nd Term Results or Grade 12 Certificate
- Academic progress report, if already a student at a University, Technikon or University of Technology
- Provisional acceptance at a University, Technikon or University of Technology or any Institution of Higher Learning.

NB: Applications for study fields other than the ones mentioned above will NOT be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

The decision of the NamPower Bursary Committee as endorsed by the Managing Director is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Application forms can be obtained at NamPower Offices (in all Regions) as well as at the NamPower Head Office, 15 Luther Street, Windhoek or on the NamPower website www.nampower.com.na. Completed application forms together with certified copies of the abovementioned documentation should be sent to:

The Bursary Administrator, NamPower, P. O. Box 2854, Windhoek.

The deadline for submission of applications is **31 October 2022**.

Note: Female and disadvantaged candidates are encouraged to apply for bursaries, especially in the Engineering study fields.

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPLs 8728, 8792 & 8795 FOR NUCLEAR FUELS WITHIN THE ERONGO REGION, NAMIBIA.

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) hereby gives notice to the public that an application for an environmental clearance certificate in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 will be made as per the following:

<p>Applicant: Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): Environmental Compliance Consultancy</p> <p>Location: Erongo Region, Namibia</p>	<p>Project: EPL 8728 is located east of Walvis Bay in the Erongo Region. Access to the EPL can be obtained via the C16 between Usakos and Walvis Bay, and the D7098 and EPLs 8792 and 8795 are located east of Heredia Bay in the Erongo Region and can be accessed via the D8584 between Acazuli and Heredia Bay.</p>
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Proposed Activities: The proponent, Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd propose to explore for nuclear fuels on EPLs 8728, 8792 & 8795 using standard exploration methods such as geochemical surveys, ground and airborne geophysical surveys (e.g. NEM surveys to define palaeochannels and alluvial paleochannels) and RC, IAB and diamond drilling to provide samples for density determination, mineralogical study, geochemical and diagenetic analysis.

Purpose of the review and registration period: The purpose of the review and registration period is to introduce the proposed project and to allow registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to comment on the Background Information Document (BID) to ensure that all issues, and concerns are brought forward, captured and considered further in the assessment.

The registration period is effective from 17 to 30 October 2022. I&APs and stakeholders are required to register for the Project at <https://www.environmental.com.na/apply-for-the-proposed-exploration-of-nuclear-fuels-on-epl-8728-8792-8795-erongo-region-namibia/>.

The team at ECC will then maintain contact with all registered I&APs to keep them informed and engaged as the EPL process develops. ECC will also provide registered I&APs relevant documents to review during the assessment process.

8
Republiek Sun
17 Allgäu-Zeitung
Market Watch
MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2022

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPLs 8728, 8782 & 8785 FOR POLYMETALLIC DEPOSIT WITHIN THE ERONGO REGION, NAMIBIA.

Environmental Compliance Consultancy CC (ECC) hereby gives notice to the public that an application for an environmental clearance certificate in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 will be made as per the following:

Applicant: Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd
Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): Environmental Compliance Consultancy
Location: Erongo Region, Namibia

Project: EPL area is located east of Meiberg in the Erongo Region. Access to the EPL can be obtained via the C14 between Usabos and Meiberg Bay, and the Grass and GRL areas and area are located east of Herilake Bay in the Erongo Region and can be accessed via the C14 between Ananda and Herilake Bay.

Proposed Activities: The proponent, Marenica Ventures (Pty) Ltd, propose to explore for mineral fields on GRL area, area & area using standard exploration methods such as geochemical surveys, ground and airborne geophysical surveys (e.g. MTEM surveys to define palaeochannels and airborne radiometric surveys) and SO, SO2 and dissolved oxygen to provide samples for dense deamination, mineralogical, such as geochemical and disequilibrium analysis.

Prepared for the review and registration period: The purpose of the review and registration period is to introduce the proposed Project and to allow registered Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) to comment on the Background Information Document (BID) to ensure that all issues, and concerns are brought forward, captured and considered further in the assessment.

The registration period is effective from 17 to 26 October 2022. IAPs and stakeholders are required to register for the Project at: <https://www.environment.gov.na/development/the-competent-authorities-of-projects>
enr@environment.gov.na

The team at ECC will then maintain contact with all registered IAPs to keep them informed and engaged as the ECA process develops. ECC will also provide registered IAPs relevant documents to review during the assessment process.

Registration Contact: ECC (Pty) Ltd
 Attention: Bid Registration Officer
 P.O. Box 11111, Windhoek
 Tel: +264 61 233 1111
 Email: enr@environment.gov.na
 Website: www.environment.gov.na
 Department: Environmental Compliance

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

MTC hereby invites companies to participate in the following procurement opportunities:

MTC35-22-O: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR A WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED (MTC)
BRIEFING MEETING: Thursday, 13th October @ 11h00am (Namibian Time)
VENUE: Microsoft Teams, the link will be on the MTC website
CLOSING DATE: 4th November 2022 by 14h30 (Namibian Time)

MTC54-22-O: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY VARIOUS COMPONENTS, SYSTEM AND MATERIALS OF FIBER OPTIC CONNECTIVITY FOR MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED (MTC)
BRIEFING MEETING: Friday, 14th October 2022 @ 11h00am (Namibian Time)
VENUE: Microsoft Teams, the link will be on the MTC website
CLOSING DATE: 4th November 2022 by 14h30 (Namibian Time)

MTC55-22-O: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES OF BASE TRANSCIVER STATION AIR CONDITIONING UNITS FOR MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED (MTC)
BRIEFING MEETING: Tuesday, 11th October 2022 @ 11h00am (Namibian Time)
VENUE: Microsoft Teams, the link will be on the MTC website
CLOSING DATE: 28th October 2022 by 14h30 (Namibian Time)

Terms of References are available at:
www.mtc.com.na/corporate/procurement

f t i mtc.com.na

2023 BURSARY PROGRAMME

Applications Now Open!

What sets your spirit aflame and gives you hope for a bright future? Do you Believe in possibilities? We are recruiting Top Achievers in Sports and Academics for our 2023 Bursary Programme.

The programme is targeted at matriculants, Advanced Subsidiary level students and Bachelor's degree holders wishing to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in:

- / Actuarial Science
- / Agriculture (Engineering, Agronomy, Economics, Horticulture)
- / Engineering (Mining, Chemical, Industrial)
- / Information Technology (Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Data Science)

Prospective students excelling in Sports are welcome to apply in any field of study

Who Can Apply?

- / Namibian Citizens
- / Undergraduate and postgraduate students from recognised Universities in Namibia and across SADC Region.

The Minimum Requirements

- / Certified copy of mid-year examination results
- / Certified copy of ID document
- / Certified copy of grade 12 certificate
- / Proof of Namibian citizenship
- / Proof of University admission

The Application Process

Interested candidates who meet the requirements can visit www.standardbank.com.na to complete an application form and upload an up-to-date copy of their CV/resume and all required documentations.

As per Affirmative Action (Employment Act, Act 29 of 1998), Namibian Citizens from previously disadvantaged groups will receive preference.

Closing Date: 18 November 2022

Standard Bank IT CAN BE.

APPENDIX D – SITE NOTICES



GPS Coordinates:

S:23.204523

E:15.550832

APPENDIX E – EAP CVS