



Submitted to: B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd.
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REPORT:

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 4309 – COMPLIANCE REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER: ECC-132-424-REP-03-A

REPORT VERSION: REV 01

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Client Name: Mr Dixon Bernardu

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction	5
1.1	Company background	5
1.2	The proponent of the proposed project	
1.3	Environmental assessment practitioner	
1.4	Purpose of report	8
2	Background to EPL 4309	9
2.1	Renewal activities	9
3	Environmental compliance audit	10
3.1	Site inspection	10
3.2	Annual compliance audit	
3.3	Compliance audit findings	
3.4	Issues of non-compliance	
4	Rehabilitation	28
5	Conclusion and recommendations	30
LIST	OF TABLES	
Table	le 1 – Proponents details	7
	le 2 - Exploration EMP Audit	
LIST	OF FIGURES	
_	re 1 – Project location	
_	re 2 - June 2019 soil sampling on farm Okonjima, EPL4309.	
•	re 3 - Plates 1(a): Access road cleared, (b): Avoid damaging protect and big trees	
	ess road cleared, (c) RAB drilling on site and (d): drill site after rehabilitation from	
	ember 2020re 4 - Plates 1(a and b): Access roads cleared with frontend loader, big and protected	
_	e avoided, (c and d) RAB drill sites after rehabilitation and wooden peg us	
	itification from January to June 2022	
ideii	icineación nom janaciy co jane 2022.	2
APPI	ENDICES	
Арре	endix A - Environmental management plan31	
Appe	endix B – Environmental Clearance Certificate32	
Арре	endix C – Bi-Annual Reports33	



TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS	DESCRIPTION
DEA	Directorate of Environmental Affairs
ECC	Environmental Compliance Consultancy
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EMP	environmental management plan
EPL	Exclusive Prospecting Licence
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
RAB	Rotary Air Blast



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 COMPANY BACKGROUND

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been retained by B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd referred to hereinafter as the Proponent. The Proponent currently holds a valid environmental clearance certificate for exploration activities on EPL 4309, for which a renewal is being applied. As part of this application, an environmental compliance audit has been undertaken to determine the status of compliance with the environmental management plan.

The project is located in the Otjozondjupa Region. The licence area is located between Otavi and Otjiwarongo south of B2Gold's Otjikoto Gold Mine in the Otjozondjupa Region, approximately 300 km from Windhoek see Figure 1.





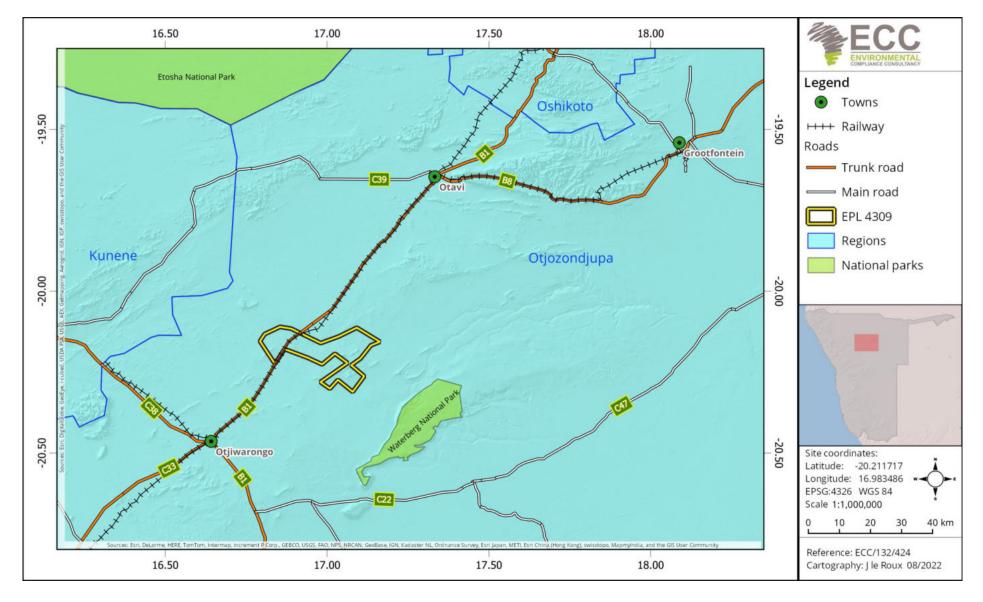


Figure 1 - Project location



1.2 The proponent of the proposed project

B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd is the Proponent for the proposed project. The Proponent has a head office in Namibia's capital, Windhoek, and the Proponents' details are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 - Proponents details

Company Representative:	Contact Details:
Mr Dixon Bernardu	PO Box 80363
(Technical contact person)	Olympia
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1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) (Reg. No. CC 2013/11401) has prepared this renewal report on behalf of the Proponent. This report has been authored by employees of ECC, who have no material interest in the outcome of this report, nor do any of the ECC team have any interest that could be reasonably regarded as being capable of affecting their independence in the preparation of this report. ECC is independent from the proponent and has no vested or financial interest in the project, except for fair remuneration for professional fees rendered based upon agreed commercial rates. Payment of these fees is in no way contingent on the results of this report or the assessment, or a record of decision issued by Government. No member or employee of ECC is, or is intending to be, a director, officer, or any other direct employee of B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd. No member or employee of ECC has, or has had, any shareholding B2Gold Namibia (Pty) Ltd.

All compliance and regulatory requirements regarding this report should be forwarded by email or posted to the following address:

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1.4 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to document the findings of an environmental compliance audit, which accompanies the renewal application for the environmental clearance certificate for EPL 4309.

The approved EMP for the existing environmental clearance certificate is audited to monitor the proceeds of the project and ensure that all measures stipulated in the document are met and effectively adhered to, as required by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). In an event where the project activities are altered, the EMP is required to be revised and amended accordingly.

As per the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its EIA Regulations of 2012, exploration activities on EPL 4309 cannot be undertaken without a valid environmental clearance certificate. The exploration activities at EPL 4309 proposes to assess the viability of base and rare and precious minerals, namely gold that can be found in the EPL 4309 area. The proposed methods of exploration have minimal impacts, as they are done on a small scale and rehabilitation of the natural vegetation will be done as per the approved EMP.



2 BACKGROUND TO EPL 4309

The Proponent carries out low-impact exploration activities on EPL 4309 for base and rare metals, industrial minerals and precious metals in the Grootfontein District, Otjozondjupa Region. The Proponent wishes to continue with exploration activities on Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) 4309.

2.1 Renewal activities

The proposed project is for the exploration of base, rare and precious metals and industrial minerals. As part of the proposed exploration project, the following activities are envisaged, which shall be further defined as the exploration program is refined:

- Drilling (Diamond and RAB)
- Mineral sampling
- Surface sampling of soil, calcrete and/or rock chips



3 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT

3.1 SITE INSPECTION

3.1.1. Bi-annual monitoring

An environmental report is submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism biannually reporting on periods from January to June and July to December. These reports report on compliance with regards to the activities taking place on-site, roads or tracks made or used, accommodation structures and infrastructure erected, any rehabilitation done, and any incidents of conflict reported.

3.1.2 Activities for the monitoring period

During the continuation of the exploration programme after the proponent's licence was renewed for another three years, during the period of January to June 2019. A total of 350 soil samples were collected on EPL4309 during this reporting period. The ~1kg samples were collected using hand augers and no heavy machinery was required, nor was any bush cleared.

From July to December 2020 lines were cleared for access and shallow percussion drilling took place. While, a total of 60 shallow Rotary Air Blast (RAB) holes were drilled on the farm Okonjima the depths ranged from 15 to 30 metres maximum and 60 sampling boreholes were drilled.

From January to June 2022 on farm Houmoed, the proponent cleared eight lines for RAB drilling in May 2022. A front-end loader was then used to clear invasive bush for roads to drill sites and big as well as protected trees were avoided. A Rotary Air Blast rig was used to drill 127 shallow holes (30m deep). The drill hole sites were rehabilitated with material from the hole after drilling and a wooden peg was used for identification.

A very good relationship was built with the landowner and no issues concerning the environmental damage was reported by the farm owners during the exploration period.





Figure 2 - June 2019 soil sampling on farm Okonjima, EPL4309.

3.2 Annual compliance audit

Furthermore, the approved EMP covers all adverse environmental impacts, including any additional potential impacts that may result from the exploration activities at EPL 4309. The EMP provides the technical details for each mitigation, monitoring and institutional measure, including the impact(s) to which it relates and the conditions when required, together with designs, equipment descriptions and operating procedures as granted.

3.3 COMPLIANCE AUDIT FINDINGS

This section outlines the findings of the environmental audit completed for the project. It addresses obligations in terms of the key Acts that govern the activities on site, the commitments made in the EMP, and present the findings and recommended corrective actions where applicable (Table 2).

The EMP:

 Identifies all mineral exploration activities that could cause environmental damage (risks and potential impacts) and provides a summary of actions required;



- Identifies institutions responsible for ensuring compliance with the EMP and provides their contact information;
- Provides standard procedures to avoid, minimise and mitigate the identified negative environmental impacts and to enhance the positive impact of the proposed activities on the environment;
- Provides for site and exploration rules and actions required;
- Forms a written record of procedures, responsibilities, requirements and rules for contractor/s, their staff and any other person who must comply with the EMP;
- Ensure zero pollution incidents; minimal vegetation clearing and earthworks, protect local flora, fauna, and water resources; and use water and other natural resources effectively and efficiently.
- Provides a monitoring and auditing programme to track and record compliance and identify and respond to any potential or actual negative environmental impacts, and
- Provides a monitoring programme to record any mitigation measures that are implemented.
- Ensure that an annual environmental audit is carried out by either MME or MEFT.
- Once exploration has ceased, any impacts shall be rehabilitated.

3.4 ISSUES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

No issues of non-compliance were recorded for this licence period.



Table 2 - Exploration EMP Audit



Activity Pot	ential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		 Ensure gates are closed after entry and exit. Scheduling/planning along with landowner Notify landowner in advance of planned exploration activities Include in agreement that no smoking is permitted in the veld 		
- Bio	odiversity	 No protected tree species or trees with a stem diameter over 10 cm may be cut down. Tree removal permits will be obtained for the removal of all protected tree species (as is required by the Forestry Act) The footprint of the area to be disturbed for surveying/mapping and for providing access to survey sites will be minimised as far as is practically possible. B2Gold will implement a zero tolerance policy with regards to the killing or collecting of any biodiversity. This applies to people directly employed by B2Gold as well as any contractors working on their behalf. 	- Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		 Employees and contractors will be shown the value of biodiversity and the need to conserve the species and systems that occur within the area. Inform B2Gold of botanical sensitive areas, include no-go areas in the access agreements Open fires will only be permitted in designated areas where the risk of vegetation catching on fire is minimised. Speed limits will be enforced so as to prevent road kills. Permits will be required for the removal of protected tree species. No excavations will be left open overnight unless fenced off. Consult landowners to help identify important sites and species. 		
	– Air quality	 Air quality - Vehicle speeds will be limited to 40km/h on access routes to limit dust. 	– Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	- Heritage	 Consult with land owner to identify known archaeological sites 	- Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		– In the event that archaeological		mitigation measures are in
		resources are discovered, a chance find		place as per the EMP.
		emergency procedure will be		
		implemented which includes the		
		following:		
		 All work at the find will be stopped to 		
		prevent damage;		
		o An appropriate heritage specialist		
		will be appointed to assess the find		
		and related impacts; and		
		o Permitting applications will be made		
		to the necessary authorities, if		
		required.		
		– In the event that any graves are		
		discovered during the exploration		
		activities, these will be avoided and		
		preserved as a first priority. If damage is		
		unavoidable, prior to damaging or		
		destroying any identified graves,		
		permission for the exhumation and		
		relocation of graves must be obtained		
		from the relevant descendants (if known)		
		and the relevant authorities.		



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
- Access the drill site using an existing access track where necessary - Set-up drilling	- Air quality, dust and gaseous emissions	 The movement of drilling related vehicles on the unpaved access track will be on a small scale Vehicle speeds will be limited to 30km/h on site near the community Vehicles and the drilling rig will be maintained in good working order Avoid new access route development where possible. 	- Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
machine with drip trays and groundsheets - Set-up	- Noise	 Vehicles will travel maximum 30 km/hour near communities/residents 	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
ablution facilities Set-up fuel and lubricants storage area Waste management Fire management	- Biodiversity	 The footprint of the area to be disturbed for drill site establishment and camp site and for providing access to drill sites will be minimised as far as is practically possible. B2Gold will implement a zero-tolerance policy with regards to the killing or collecting of any biodiversity. This applies to people directly employed by B2Gold as well as any contractors working on their behalf. 	- Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		- No protected tree species or trees with a		
		stem diameter over 10 cm may be cut		
		down.		
		- Tree removal permits will be obtained		
		for the removal of all protected tree		
		species (as is required by the Forestry		
		Act)		
		– Employees and contractors will be		
		shown the value of biodiversity and the		
		need to conserve the species and		
		systems that occur within the project		
		area through appropriate training.		
		– A fire break around the drill sites and		
		camp areas will be established. To avoid		
		starting a fire, smoking will only be		
		allowed in dedicated smoking areas with		
		a sand filled drum or similar for disposal		
		of cigarette butts and no open fires will		
		be allowed for cooking. Food will be		
		cooked with gas-cookers. Furthermore, a		
		minimum of two fire extinguishers and		
		an evacuation program will be available		
		at each site. Zero tolerance rule will be		
		implemented for this measure.		



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		 Speed limits will be enforced so as to prevent road kills. Honour agreements set out in the site access contracts, specifically relating to the areas utilised for hunting and livestock farming. Provide appropriate toilet facilities (long drop with chloride or lime) for the drilling team on the site. Avoid as far as possible line cutting after primary vegetating growth after the rain season. 		
	- Land use	 Access agreements to be prepared and approved prior to drill site establishment. The footprint of the area to be disturbed will be minimised as far as is practically possible. Areas used as laydown areas are to be raked and/or ploughed to encourage revegetation 	– Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	- Heritage	 In the event that archaeological resources are discovered, a chance find emergency procedure will be implemented which includes the following: 	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		 All work at the find will be stopped to prevent damage; An appropriate heritage specialist will be appointed to assess the find and related impacts; and Permitting applications will be made to the necessary authorities, if required. In the event that any graves are discovered during the drilling or associated activities, these will be avoided and preserved. An archaeological desktop assessment of all drill sites will be carried out prior to project implementation. 		
	- Socio-economic	 Honour agreements set out in the siteaccess contracts Consult with landowners and provide feedback regarding activities Provide contact details to a designated person, who will serve as liaison between landowner and the drilling team Landowners to be provided with a list of all people working on site 	- Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		- All staff operating on site will be provided		
		with identification and proof that they		
		are working for the drilling team		
	- Waste management	- Suitable receptacles for waste disposal	– Compliant	– The proponent will
		will be provided at appropriate locations		continue to ensure
		on site. These receptacles will be clearly		mitigation measures are in
		marked.		place as per the EMP.
		– Employees and contractors will be		
		shown the importance of correct waste		
		disposal and minimization through		
		appropriate training.		
		- Waste will be removed from site and		
		disposed of at a suitable licensed waste		
		disposal facility.		
		– Hazardous waste (including		
		hydrocarbon contaminated		
		material/soil) will be disposed of at a		
		licenced hazardous waste disposal		
		facility.		
 Exploration 	- Contamination of	- In all areas where there is storage of	- Compliant	 The proponent will
drilling	soil/Hydrocarbon	hazardous substances (i.e.		continue to ensure
– Contain all	spillages	hydrocarbons), there will be		mitigation measures are in
drilling water		containment of spillages on		place as per the EMP.
		impermeable floors and bunded trays		



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
in the sump		that can contain 110% of the volume of		
and allow to		the hazardous substances.		
settle		- All refuelling and any maintenance of		
- Place drill		vehicles will take place with protective		
core in core		measures to ensure no contamination of		
trays		the surface.		
- Maintain		 Pollution will be prevented through basic 		
ablution		infrastructure design and through		
facilities		maintenance of equipment.		
		- Spill kits will be readily available on site.		
		Employees and/or contractors will be		
		shown to use the spill kits to enable		
		containment and remediation of		
		pollution incidents.		
		– B2Gold will establish environmental		
		awareness in employees and contractors		
		– A PVC lined sump will be used for		
		collection of drill lubricants and silt		
		contained in the drilling water		
		- Any spills will be contained and cleaned		
		up immediately		
		– Non-toxic and biodegradable drilling		
		lubricant will be used		



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
	- Groundwater and surface water contamination	 Refer to management measures relating to contamination of soils above Provide appropriate toilet facilities (long drop with chloride or lime) for the drilling team on the site. 	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	– Air quality deterioration	 Vehicle speeds will be limited to 40km/h on access routes to limit dust. 	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	- Noise generation	 Vehicles will travel maximum 30 km/h near communities and residents. Drilling will only take place during daylight hours when being carried out within 2 km of residents. 	- Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	– Land use	_	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	- Social - provision of toilet facilities	 Provide appropriate toilet facilities (long drop with chloride or lime) for the drilling team on the site. The facility must be properly closed at the end of the drilling activities. 	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
Water abstraction	- Groundwater quantity	 Water use licenses in terms of the Water Resource Management Act (Act No. 11 of 2013) will be obtained for any new boreholes. Agreements to be included in a contract between B2Gold and landowners for borehole use. Water levels will be measured prior to abstraction, during abstraction (daily) and after completion. Levels will be reported to the landowners. 	- Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
General closure activities	Groundwater and surface water contamination		– Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	- Noise pollution	Vehicles will travel maximum 30 km/h near houses/settlements.	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	– Contamination of soils	-	– Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
	– Air quality deterioration	 Vehicle speeds will be limited to 40km/h on access routes to limit dust. The movement of drilling-related vehicles on unpaved access track will be on a small scale. 	– Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	- Soil erosion	 Impacted footprints are to be ripped and raked to encourage re-vegetation A monitoring program will be implemented to establish re-vegetation progress 	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	- Waste management	 Decommission ablution facilities Ensure that all waste generated during activities is removed from the site and disposed of appropriately 	- Compliant	 The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.
	- Land use	 The landowners will be invited to carry out site inspections following rehabilitation in order to ensure that it has been carried out suitably. Tracks / Grids: All newly established tracks and gridlines will be ripped. Where necessary erosion prevention barricades will be constructed. Should the landowners wish to keep the newly established track, the 	- Compliant	- The proponent will continue to ensure mitigation measures are in place as per the EMP.



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		exploration company will leave the		
		track, but will ensure that the erosion		
		potential is kept at a minimum. Any		
		newly erected gate or fence, which is		
		not required by the farm owner or		
		community, will be removed.		
		- Drill Sites:		
		o All drill sites will be cleaned and		
		rehabilitated. All diamond drilling		
		sumps and holes will be filled and		
		raked. Chips recovered during RC		
		and RAB drilling and which are not		
		used for exploration purposes willbe		
		back filled in the hole, or transported		
		and disposed at a site indicated by		
		the land owner.		
		– Bush camps:		
		 All French drains and long drops will 		
		be filled and compacted. All semi-		
		permanent structures will be		
		removed from site.		
		- Monitoring:		
		Bi-annual environmental monitoring		
		visits will be conducted, investigating		
		the compliance with the		



Activity	Potential Impacts	Management/Mitigation Measures	Compliance	Comments
		environmental requirements. Photos		
		will be taken from drill sites at the		
		beginning and rehabilitated site.		
		Informal visits by the landowner		
		could be carried out, as well as		
		formal visits with Committee		
		Representatives and B2Gold		
		Management as per the		
		requirements of the landowners		



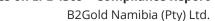
4 REHABILITATION

The proponent ensured that all impacts caused by them during exploration activities were rehabilitated should no further use of the land be required. When selecting sites for access roads and drill sites, priority was given to areas with little vegetation cover, while sparing medium to large trees in order to minimize the amount of vegetation cleared. Drill hole sites were rehabilitated after drilling (Figures 3 and 4).

The recovery of vegetation will occur naturally and gradually, through seeds that are in the soil and should begin to regrow during the rainy season. Access tracks will be maintained for future exploration activities.



Figure 3 - Plates 1(a): Access road cleared, (b): Protectedand big trees were avoided on the access road cleared, (c) RAB drilling on site and (d): drill site after rehabilitation from July to December 2020.



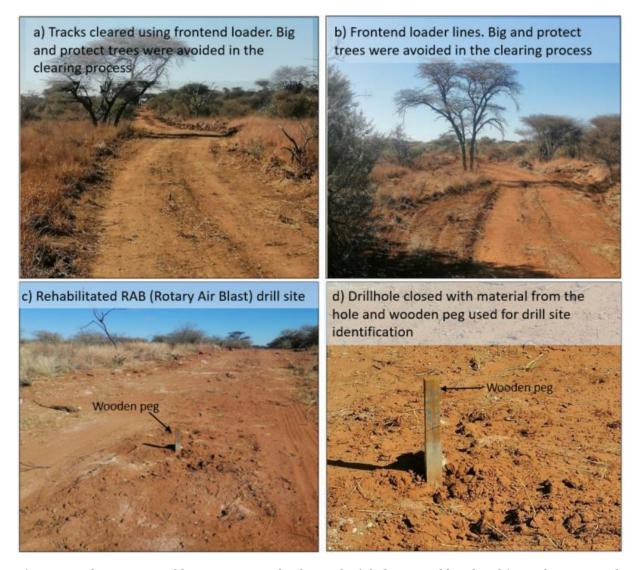


Figure 4 - Plates 1(a and b): Access roads cleared with frontend loader, big and protected trees were avoided, (c and d) RAB drill sites after rehabilitation and wooden peg used for identification from January to June 2022.

September 2022 PAGE 29 OF 33



5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All proposed activities shall be carried out in compliance with the relevant requirements and conditions of the granted licence in accordance with the approved EMP. It is recommended that the Proponent continue to adhere to all environmental legislation and company standards to ensure that best practical environmental protection continues as the project activities progress.



APPENDIX A: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN





APPENDIX B - ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE





APPENDIX C - BI-ANNUAL REPORTS